

THE S.B.A?

and what the deuce may that be?

What is the S.B.A?

The Smaller Businesses Association is the only body that speaks exclusively for the private entrepreneur. The members are all people who are running, and in many cases have started and built up, private businesses. The Association speaks for 20,000 private businesses, but its voice would be more effective if it spoke for more of the 820,000 private businesses which employ nearly 10 million of the working population, and produce 25% of the GNP.

What are its aims?

The SBA embodies the faith of its members in the virtues of private business and their importance to the economy of Britain. It is confident that private businesses are predominantly the source of new ideas and innovation: are flexible and competitive: produce economically many specialised products in relatively small quantities: suffer less than larger businesses from industrial disputes, absenteeism and staff turnover: provide personal fulfilment and opportunity for initiative: in general are more efficient than larger businesses: and reduce concentration of economic and political power.

The SBA is not political, let alone Poujadiste. It believes, however, in the need to educate politicians, who promise voters the earth and expect businessmen to deliver it, not only without recognition but under the handicap and disincentive of an increasingly heavy burden of taxation, corporate and private.

What has it achieved?

The SBA under the last Government was in close contact with the thirty members of the parliamentary backbench committee on small businesses: it gave evidence to the Bolton Committee: it is consulted by the Department of Trade and Industry. Its representations to this department and to the Chancellor have been instrumental in abolishing the tax restriction for directors' remuneration which applied only to private companies: mitigating short-fall provisions: eliminating Capital Gains at death: doubling tax relief on retirement annuity policies: reducing SET: increasing the limit for earned income relief: extending the time-limit for roll-over provisions.

For what is it still striving?

The SBA is fighting against:—

- (1) The increased burden of Corporation Tax on private companies which will limit their expansion (though it claims some credit for the lower rate of Corporation Tax applied to some smaller businesses).

- (2) The taxation of notional capital gains where no actual gain has been realised.
- (3) The disclosure of accounts under the same conditions as for public companies.
- (4) The estate duty provisions which can compel the small company to be sold.
- (5) The wealth tax and gifts tax which the proprietors of smaller businesses do not have the cash to pay, and which may result in the sale of these firms (the basis of valuation of the shares is a vital matter).

The SBA is fighting for:—

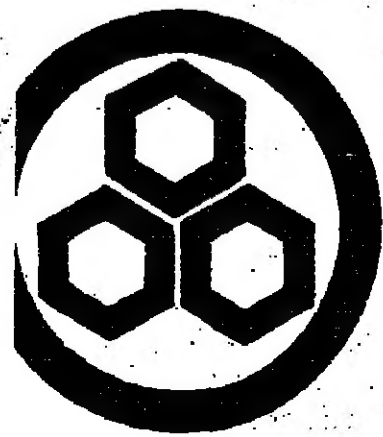
- (1) The appointment of a senior minister with sole responsibility for privately owned businesses, with the full-time task of understanding and keeping the Cabinet informed of their problems.
- (2) The setting-up of a scheme of governmental guarantees (similar to Export Credit Guarantees) for bank loans to smaller businesses.
- (3) The recognition by Governments and the community of the vital importance of the role played by independent private enterprise.

Why should I join?

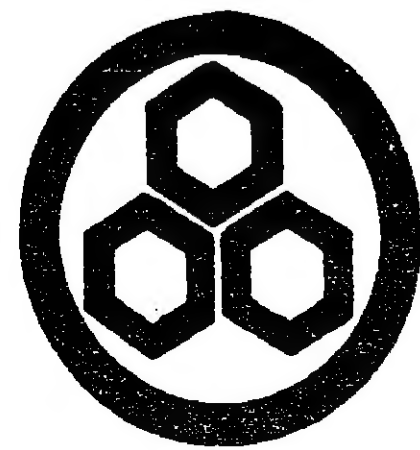
- (1) If you believe that Britain has lagged behind the rest of the world in its recognition of the role played by smaller businesses in the economy (14 countries in Europe already have an association for smaller businesses, and in France alone one million small businesses belong to the Confédération Générale des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises);
- (2) If you have faith in the virtues of private businesses;
- (3) If you are convinced of the vital importance to the British economy of the enterprise, courage and hard work of the individual entrepreneur;
- (4) If you believe that the present burden of taxation on the private businessman is unfair and unwise;
- (5) If you wish to share the hard-headed experience of other private businessmen;

show this page to your secretary and ask her to write to Miss Shirley Pickett, Secretary of the Association, at Europe House, World Trade Centre, London E1 9AA. The subscription is a flat rate of £20.

This notice has been inserted in the national interest on behalf of the SBA by a family-owned and directed group which, after a hundred years of steady expansion, now believes its independence and integrity to be in jeopardy.



The Smaller Businesses Association



HOME NEWS

Mr Heath 'laughing stock' over oil, SNP leader says

Mr Heath has confirmed himself as the laughing stock of British politics with his proposals for dealing with off-shore oil revenues, Mr William Wolfe, chairman of the Scottish National Party, said yesterday.

Replying to Mr Heath's speech on Saturday at the closing rally of the Scottish Conservative Party conference in Ayr, Mr Wolfe said that the people of Scotland would not be bought off by "the broken leader of a discredited party".

At his home in West Lothian, Mr Wolfe said: "Mr Heath and the Tory party had nearly four years in which to give effective recognition to the just claims of the Scottish people. Instead, they ignored them and proceeded to arrange the rape of Scotland's resources and the continued exploitation of the Scottish people."

"The half-baked proposals which Mr Heath now puts into the Conservative shop window confirm his position as the laughing stock of United Kingdom politics. They are impractical, they would do nothing to meet the needs and aspirations of the Scots, and no one would buy them anyway, apart from the diminishing rump of the Tory party in Scotland."

"The people of Scotland are in no mood to be bought off by the broken leader of a discredited party."

"The Scottish National Party will go on steadily in its campaign for Scottish control of Scotland's oil, in its war on Scottish poverty, and in its demands for a democratically elected parliament for Scotland," Mr Wolfe said.

In his speech at Ayr, Mr Heath said Scots were worried that Scotland would not obtain the benefits from off-shore oil.

"They have been encouraged in these fears, understandable and genuine fears, by what can only be described as an unscrupulous campaign by the Scottish National Party."

"Everyone knows in their hearts the real objective of the

leaders of the Scottish nationalists. It is to play upon the fears and jealousies of ordinary men and women in order to start a bandwagon rolling which the Scottish nationalist leaders hope then to steer over the precipice of separation."

"Few people in Scotland want that path—and certainly not all of those who have voted for the Scottish nationalists share those objectives; far from it."

"But let no one be in doubt about what those objectives are: the seceding of people against people, the calling up of dangerous and destructive forces which, once called, can seldom be easily controlled; leading to the break up of the United Kingdom."

Mr Heath said it was impossible to estimate exactly what the revenues from the North Sea would be, but Conservative plans would ensure that the Government gained a new source of income. This could be spent on raising the living standards of all the people, as well as helping to offset the deficit on the balance of payments.

Mr Heath said that one of the first tasks of the next Conservative government would be to set up a Scottish development fund, which would help to tackle environmental problems. There would need to be considerable investment in all sorts of industries connected with the oil, and the fund would help where necessary.

The second purpose of the fund would be to tackle some of Scotland's older and more stubborn problems, such as help for deprived areas.

Mr Heath said he pledged the next Conservative government to make two major innovations. The first would be to move the oil divisions of the Department of Energy from London to Scotland.

The second was that the next Conservative government would make oil companies offer aid to move their decision-makers north of the border.

Bulldozers halted in Manchester 'villages'

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Chorlton-cum-Hardy is one of a string of so-called villages scattered along the southern rim of Manchester. It is, frankly, not much of a village; the "green" has not been grassed for more than 100 years, the mock-Tudor public house beside it looks much better from the outside than it proves to be inside, and a handful of attractive stone cottages have long since been swamped by redbrick terraces built when the fast-expanding city was groping for room.

Manchester is still groping, but for different reasons. The expansion of commerce and industry has slowed dramatically, but in its wake the city has been faced with a massive programme of slum clearance and urban renewal. Twenty years after the bulldozers began their task, huge areas like Moss Side still resemble a film set in postwar Germany: acres of flattened, silent rubble, whose former inhabitants have been moved either to a new high-rise estate or to overspill areas beyond the city limits.

To begin with there was little resistance to the demolition programme. Some people may have regretted the loss of their familiar surroundings, but by common consent most of the inner city slums were beyond rehabilitation.

In the past few months, however, the southward progress of the bulldozer has been halted. Groups of residents in "villages" like Chorlton, Disley, Ladybarn and Withington have appealed against Manchester Corporation's compulsory purchase orders, and the result has been a succession of public inquiries on which decisions are not expected until towards the end of the year.

Mr B. Parnell, the city's chief planning officer, concedes that those areas have some environmental attractions and historical connections, which people who live there value. Owners of houses have in some cases been asked to carry out improvements, and where this has happened the Corporation has not pressed for compulsory purchase orders, he says.

"We have always maintained that slum clearance and improvement are complementary, not alternatives," he adds.

Mrs Joan Newman, a member of the Chorlton residents' association, insists that many of the houses which the Corporation wants to demolish are basically sound. She agrees that they need money spent on them but, as she points out, no one going to spend any money until the threat of compulsory purchase is lifted.

Big attendance at Devon Show despite rain

From Our Correspondent
Exeter

Despite rain on two days, the total attendance at the three-day Devon County Show, which ended in Exeter on Saturday, was 79,611, the second highest total in the show's 102-year history.

The title of "Champion Farmer of Devon" was shared on Saturday by Mr Herbert Tully, who breeds pedigree South Devon cattle at Exminster, and Mr A. Danks of Kingsbridge, who keeps South Devon sheep.

Welsh reports for DPP

Police in South Wales have sent three reports to the Director of Public Prosecutions on the progress of their investigation into allegations of corruption which concern two councillors and an official of the former Glamorgan County Council.

They expect to conclude their inquiries, which began last July during the autumn. The allegations concern land development.

Minister wants shake-up at Arts Council to make it more representative

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

"The only thing I really miss is being able to say out loud exactly what I think about everything. I find the job completely absorbing and it is the only one in the Government I aim to do."

Mr Hugh Jenkins, at 65, when many men are at least considering retirement, is energetically and enthusiastically tackling his job of responsibility for the arts, now reduced to parliamentary under-secretary rank, a far cry from the days when he was a minister in the Ministry of Culture.

The pressures are many and varied, theatre men calling for VAT zero-rating, backed up by the Arts Council, Tory MPs manoeuvring on Public Lending Right, film people seeking help for their sick industry.

They may believe the minister can open the Pandora's box in the hall of his ministry and release all kinds of goodies. But the financial reins are not in his hands.

Take VAT. While his opposition has always been made clear, now as minister he can only hope the strongest possible case will be presented; that people in the theatre will stop shouting and produce facts.

The Arts Council is presenting a case for the refund to itself of those sums lost to the supported theatre because of VAT.



Flight of fancy at the "Nuts in May" festival children's air show on Parliament Hill fields, Hampstead, yesterday.

Mr Benn calls for major reform of industry

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, said on Saturday that if present trends continued, the United Kingdom would soon become one of the poorest countries in Europe.

The warning, echoing what Lord Rothschild, head of the Central Policy Review Staff, said last September, was regarded by his audience of politicians and parliamentary journalists as a certain-thinger for the Government's expected announcement of new measures to intervene in private industry.

Addressing the annual dinner of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, Mr Benn said that journalists and politicians had a duty to show people the reality behind the appearance.

For 30 years Britain had been in industrial decline, which was not caused by low investment or by strikes, or by

high labour costs; the seeds of the decline lay in the industrial and social organization of the country.

"We must agree as a nation to a reform of a major kind, or our decline will simply continue," he said. "I believe everyone senses that we have come to the end of an era. No government, particularly no Labour government, can continue to preside over an economy which is not paying its way, or to subsidize indefinitely at a cost of £2m a day private industry, with so little effect."

Although Labour's plans for establishing a national enterprise board, with power to take over control in Britain's leading companies, are running into opposition within the Cabinet, Mr Benn was confident that the Government would bring out its proposals on time.

He said that the Green Paper

on intervention in private industry would outline an important part of the strategy to arrest the industrial decline.

"We are now in the prelude to the most extensive and serious consultation throughout British industry," he said. "We shall seek the views of workers and management, and we shall do it carefully, because we seek the maximum possible discussion and debate, and the maximum possible agreement with our strategy."

"What I ask is that when the debate opens on Labour's industrial strategy, the discussion admits the magnitude of the problem that this country faces, the fundamental nature of the reform that will be needed, and the length of time this will involve if we are serious in intent."

It would be a damaging mistake if we assumed that our

national difficulties came upon us recently, as a result of accident or ill luck.

High labour costs had often been blamed for our poor performance. In fact, we had been paying progressively less for labour than other countries. The number of days lost in industrial disputes since the war was not significantly higher than the average of our competitor countries.

In spite of a decade of governmental effort and subsidies, regional unemployment remained high. During that period governments of the two main parties had done their best to cope with those problems in the national interest.

In all those attempts, he added, governments had shied away from a serious reform of the industrial and social organization. The time had come to face reality.

Defenders Kent to put case to MPs

By Our Planning Reporter

The conservationists against the Channel Tunnel to get a parliamentary hearing committee on the Bill begin hearing evidence from Defenders of Kent and

than 40 other amenity groups. The petition put forward those bodies is the only of 12 submitted to the commission which the Government has been unable to reach any promise. This reflects so much a deadlock on issues as the petitioners' determination to publicize their case at the damage they feel tunnel will do to large areas unsuited Kent.

Mr Hector Wilks, a chairman of the Kent Wildlife Society, will be the first witness tomorrow, conceding that the Government's view of the Channel Tunnel is simply an enabling measure that in Cleveland, Secretary of State for the Environment promised a full reappraisal of the whole project.

"But if we can get it to the committee that the substantial, grave concern the country, then the Government has got to pay attention," he says.

Mr Wilks and his fellow-tioners are chiefly concerned with the proposal to build a road terminal at Cheriton, Folkestone, and to use tunnel primarily for a st service for cars and lorries. "rolling motorway", they leave, would generate a traffic jam instead of a free flow and would turn virtually whole of south-east Kent little more than a huge distribution network.

The petitioners think the Kent County Council was wrong to concentrate on the coast between Dardford and Medway towns, where there are several redundant mills factories. Spoil from the tunnel would be spread underneath the proposed terminal site, could be used by Blue Circle Cement's Northfleet plant. Mr V says the company has said that this would be less

The brave begin assembling for their reunion

By Philip Howard

The bravest of the brave began to assemble in London yesterday for their two-yearly reunion. The overseas members of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association, flown in from all over the Commonwealth by the RAF, waited to be joined today by British members of their brotherhood linked by the red chain of courage above and beyond the call of duty. Their military bearing, short hair and lapel badges made them easy to pick out in their hotel crowded with most unimpressive package-tourists.

They each have free travel for themselves and two members of their families, and the Ministry of Defence makes a subsistence allowance for British subjects. The association uses its modest funds to ensure that no one is prevented from coming by the expense.

The most conspicuous common factor of these unbelievably brave men and women, apart from the short hair and straight backs, is a difficult reluctance to talk about the days of fire and death when they won their awards. In the words of their latest recruit, expletives deleted: "Why pick on me?"

Their chairman, Rear-Admiral Godfrey Phipps, won his VC for an over-publicized attack in a small submarine on the Tirpitz in 1943. He hovered around the hotel lobby yesterday, greeting old friends, and said: "The thing about us is that we have no axe to grind, no demonstration to make, and no common denominator."

Major Parkash Singh, his heard a sable silver and his turban mauve, won his VC in

Burma in 1943 while attached to the 11th Division. When rescued he says that he thinks it was for rescuing a few seriously wounded British other ranks from jungle occupied by the Japanese and recovering three disabled tanks. He has brought his wife and daughter with him, and says: "We are all the same under the skin, general and sepoy, brothers together."

James Gordon won his VC as a lance-corporal with the Australian infantry in Syria in 1940. He is now a groundman at Swanbourne Army camp in Western Australia and was overcome with confusion when asked about his award: "It was nothing. There was this machine gun nest, and we shifted them a bit further on. We had to go forward or go under."

Anthony Gledhill, a detective in the Metropolitan Police, was visiting in the hotel to collect a fellow VC holder who was arriving from the United States to take him home to stay. There are three serving policemen, and two retired, with George Crosses. Mr Gledhill got his for chasing a car through south London in 1966, undeterred by being shot at 15 times, and arresting a notorious criminal of the time.

The bashful heroes and heroines will assemble for their first formal meeting, several beers and much gossip later, tonight at their president's party in the RAF club. Tomorrow they go to a service at St Martin-in-the-Fields, lunch at Chelsea Barracks and a reception with the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Prince Richard of Gloucester will be the guest of honour at their dinner.

Photograph, page 16

York's two million more than satisfied tourists, on balance, manage nicely

Regional report

Ronald Kershaw
York

York is a city to be explored on foot, the official guide says. This may be a helpful hint to sightseers, a warning to motorists or even a half hidden piece of propaganda by pedestrian precinct protagonists who are seeking to drive motor cars from the more congested areas of the city.

Be that as it may, my advice to would-be visitors is to arm themselves with York's mini-guide and map, on which car parks are clearly marked. Had it not been for an extremely obliging policeman I should probably still be driving around York finding my favourite parking spots given over to ported plants and wooden forms for tired tourists.

There can be little doubt that tourism is growing apace in York. In fact, it was described by one council official as the only growth industry in the area. As streets become more and more filled with strolling visitors the local authority is more and more impatiently awaiting the outcome of a public inquiry into proposals for an inner ring road on which depends precinct plans for part of the city. Everybody I spoke to seemed to agree that "something should be done."

York's recorded history goes back to the Romans AD 71 and the building of the fortress Eboracum. Whenever the opportunity presents itself, which is fairly frequently, archaeologists move in to dig up an odd Roman settlement, but so rich is York in historical remains that finds that would send researchers into fits of ecstasy in other parts of the country are fairly commonplace in the city and its environs. It is not unknown for archaeologists sites to be destroyed simply be-

cause time, money and staff were not available in sufficient quantity to explore them fully.

York is however making its history pay in tourism terms. Each year tourists spend about £5m in the city. Mr Christopher Martins, director of York tourist department estimates that about 1,000 people are employed full time in jobs created by tourism and there are probably another 1,000 jobs which owe their existence in part at least to tourism.

To find out what the people of York thought about tourism and the money spent on it, a survey was conducted in 1972 and it was discovered that three-quarters of the people were in favour of it. More important perhaps, only one per cent were against. The rest were "don't knows".

Knowing well the Yorkshireman's superiority in every imaginable sphere of activity, it came as rather a shock to discover that Mr Martins was born in Devon and brought up in Pinner, Middlesex; and that his attractive, dark-haired press officer, Lucie Koserski, is Canadian.

Miss Koserski, a former journalist at Hamilton, Ontario, describes herself as York's most satisfied customer. She spent a three-day Christmas holiday at York, liked it, applied for the

job when it came up and selected from 50 applicants. Although tourism is no crock of gold for the county, the annual £5m spent in the city is obviously welcome to 105,000 permanent population and a boost to the economy. Plans are afoot to attract even more visitors the two million who now, to York every year.

A range of special into holidays, which Mr Ma calls "enrichment holidays" planned. The philosophy behind this is that people are stantly seeking better ways spending their leisure. From October to April the military history weekends in the military collection at the museum and visit local battlefields: Marston and Stamford Bridge.

There is a ghost-hunting day. York is rich in legends about a dozen people in the claim to have seen spirits; ing from a beautiful nun was walked up alive in Theatre Royal, to a legio Roman soldiers in the Tre er's House. Experts on g and witchcraft give talks the haunted sites are visits.

Other package trips in visits for railway enthusiasts three-day holiday in the York Minster, what is cia to be England's biggest G cathedral, trips to meet shire craftsmen and litera archaeological holidays. On balance York man yers nicely. The industry is thriving and the city is unduly stretching itself to for more. Its people a happy and visitors more satisfied, an unusual experience these days.

A Major International Sale of Rare Old and Antique Oriental Rugs

Oriental Carpet Brokers Ltd. are one of the leading European importers of fine Oriental rugs and over the years they have retained the most exceptional rare, old and antique items for their own private collection. A portion of the Oriental Carpet Brokers Ltd. private collection, which must be regarded as one of the finest in Europe, is being offered to the public at an international sale in The Churchill, London, on May 31st and June 1st, 1974. A catalogue has been specially prepared for this major event, illustrated with 42 plates and including prices, descriptions and critical evaluations of every rug. Further details of the sale, together with the catalogue and details of postal buying facilities are available free of charge upon application in writing or by telephone to Oriental Carpet Brokers Ltd., 2 South Audley Street, London, W.1. Telephone: 01-493 8552. Please note this is not an auction. Each rug is individually priced and our principals will be present to provide background information on the collection.

"Charles went up on the stage with Murko the Magician."

"What happened?"

"His bottle of High & Dry disappeared"

"Poor old Charles"



HIGH & DRY
Really dry gin

ST EUROPE

Portuguese Army ceases hostilities in Angola as minister flies to talks on territories' future

Nicholas Ashford
May 19
A Portuguese minister flew to Angola today to negotiate a ceasefire with the African war. Dr de Almeida Santos, the minister responsible for Africa, is expected to leave tonight for Angola and Mozambique.

While it was reported that the offensive by the Portuguese had been suspended to the open and negoti-

ated was accompanied by Portuguese officials, including the minister, who has had a long history since the April 25 revolution. Colonel Sousa Dr Santos had been given powers during the war by the Council of Ministers to make policy decisions having to refer back to the junta and the military government.

He is expected to return to Lisbon, precisely the same towards the future of the territories apart from a desire to a solution. However, he has moved some in the federal system. President Spínola proposed his celebrated book and the future. In his public statement, since

taking office Dr Santos held out the possibility of complete independence for Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau. "Nobody", he said, "can seriously put in doubt the possibility that among the solutions there can be included, indeed must be included, a possible choice of total independence."

He said he understood those who wanted "immediate and full recognition of the right to independence". The wars had been waged against the wishes of the Portuguese people and had reached "the level of national socio-political suicide."

While in Mozambique and Angola, Dr Santos, who in his former capacity as a leading Mozambique lawyer defended a number of leaders of the guerrilla organization Frelimo, is expected to discuss the appointment of new governors-general in the two territories. According to the weekly newspaper Expresso, the new governor-general of Mozambique may be a black African, Dr Eneias Comiche, a professor of economics in Lourenço Marques.

The suspension of military operations by the Portuguese Army in Angola was confirmed by the territory's armed forces chief, General Franco Pinheiro, in a telephone conversation with the newspaper O Seculo.

In Portugal newspapers today published photographs of leading members of the former secret police, the DGS, who had

so far failed to give themselves up. They include the organization's second in command, Senhor Agostinho Barbiero Cardoso. Last week the junta issued an ultimatum to the 1,200 or so DGS men believed to be still at large to give themselves up by Friday. If they failed to do so their photographs would be published and the public would be asked to hunt them down.

The Mozambique bishops have sent out a pastoral letter setting forth the basis of what should be the Catholic attitude towards events since the coup in Portugal. It is signed by the president of the Episcopal Conference, Bishop Francisco Nunes Telzeira of Quelimane.

The document acknowledges that the Catholic Church cannot set itself apart from the problems of the moment, but must help in "the building of a new society".

However, the church must "respect the independence and autonomy of the state in the sphere incumbent upon it" and must collaborate with the state for the common welfare.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: The British and Portuguese Governments are now in touch through diplomatic channels on the detailed arrangements for talks between the Portuguese and representatives of the liberation movement in Guinea-Bissau.

Why colonies are unwilling to discuss independence, page 14

A record turn-out for French election

Continued from page 1

out to all metropolitan and overseas departments and 168 official observers did the round of polling stations in the Paris area.

The situation in the overseas territories, which account for a decisive two and a half per cent of voters, is complicated by the time differential. In Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guiana half a million voters went to the polls after the results in metropolitan France were known.

M Pöcher, strengthened by his experience in 1969 when he also stood, has served his country well in a difficult time by ensuring the strict fairness of the campaign and the elections. Both candidates on Friday paid tribute to his impartiality.

In view of the uncertainty of the outcome, and of the length of the campaign, which lasted one month officially, but in fact began on April 3, the day after the death of President Pompidou, when M Chaban-Delmas was one of the most serious and announced his candidature, it dignified in French history.

There were a few minor incidents in the last 48 hours, mainly between rival groups, putting up election posters.

One of M Giscard d'Estaing's supporters was shot in the back and seriously injured on Friday night at Les Mureaux, west of Paris, and the election office of a Gaullist deputy was ransacked. Other incidents of the same



M Giscard d'Estaing, left, casts his vote in the Auvergne village of Chanonat and M Mitterrand in Château-Chinon in Nièvre.

kind were reported near Lille, Valenciennes, in the Isère, and in the Var.

Some scurrilous tracts about M Mitterrand were also posted in thousands in the Paris region. He has filed an action for libel against persons unknown.

There have also been some verbal excesses. The independent right-wing newspaper L'Aurore, for instance, had a banner headline yesterday which read: "Freedom or bondage; 30 mil-

lion Frenchmen will seal their fate for seven years". This sort of thing can be put to the account of Latin exaggeration.

The trade unions also uttered some dark threats as to what would happen if M Giscard d'Estaing were elected.

But they backpedalled at the end of the campaign, and said they had no wish to impose a "labour third ballot" on the nation.

The two candidates, after a

soil of violent personal polemics last week, ended on a more serene note, stating that, if elected, each would be the President of all Frenchmen.

"You will be surprised by the scope and speed of the change", M Giscard d'Estaing said in his last official television broadcast on Friday night. M Mitterrand said: "I think it would be wise to choose alternation, that is to say democ-

Moss offers £1,000 for rescue in Sahara

Tunis, May 19.—Stirling Moss, now sweating life out in the middle of the Sahara Desert with a broken down Mercedes, has offered £1,000 to anyone who will rescue him.

He and team-mates Michael Taylor and Alan Sell are reported to be stranded near Fort Henry, a disused French outpost miles from civilization in southern Algeria, after a breakdown in the World Cup motor rally. Ole Pedersen, a Canadian driver, said he saw Moss and his companions with their car's suspension and engine wrecked.

Pedersen told reporters here: "They were just about out of their minds with anxiety. As we drove up to them they said they were willing to give £1,000 to anyone prepared to pull them out of the mess they were in. We gave them as much water as we could spare and told them we would try to get help as quickly as possible."

Pedersen informed rally officials of Moss's plight as soon as he reached Tunis and two Land Rovers are expected to go to their aid, and also search for other breakdown victims.

Sixteen of the 52 starters in the 11,800 mile London to Munich rally have survived the two-way crossing of the Sahara.

The high-speed section through Europe takes the drivers across parts of Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Austria before the run into West Germany for the £10,000 first prize.—Reuters.

Herr Schmidt's policy in good reception

Our Correspondent

May 19
The new Chancellor lost no time in trying to win the support of the DGB, the powerful trades union federation, for his Government's plans. Yesterday he met its leadership for a detailed discussion on the Government's future work. At a later stage Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister joined the meeting, which Herr Schmidt called "extremely useful."

Herr Heinz Oskar Vetter, chairman of the DGB, spoke of the symbolic impact which this talk had as a first step of the new Government. It demonstrated the attitude of the Federal Government towards the labour force as a whole.

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DC10 crash cause is still a mystery

Paris, May 19.—The French legal inquiry into the world's worst air disaster in which 346 people were killed last March has concluded that it was not caused through either sabotage or an error by a baggage handler, officials said here.

The true cause of the crash of the Turkish DC-10 airliner were still unknown, they added. The aircraft plunged into woods at Ermenonville shortly after taking off from Orly.

Last month the president of the aircraft's manufacturer, the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation, blamed the crash on an "Orly baggage handler."

Reuters.

Unity list' rules German elections

Our Correspondent

May 19
Over 190,000 representatives of East German local committees, boroughs and districts met.

Usually, the 12 million were not given much as all five East German and the so-called mass organisations presented their views on the "unity list."

Last elections on these islands, 1970, 99.83 per cent of the voters approved of it. A similar result was achieved today.

Italian men maintaining ir chauvinistic ways

Our Correspondent

May 19
Most Italians no longer believe in divorce, a fact which last week's referendum on Italian male still "sultan" in his own home.

A public opinion poll published last week found that all of Italian husbands are a finger to help their wives wash the dishes. Only 10 per cent of them regularly wash the dishes or lay the table.

Another 45 per cent will lend a hand now and then, but it is absolutely necessary.

Only, by the way, last at the same time dealt with the myth of the Italian father. In fact, 90 per cent of the country's men are willing to wash the dishes or walk their dogs on a regular basis. The number drops to 4.6 per cent when asked to help out from time to time.

Men are choosing even domestic from. Dosa

Spain buys Goya for £210,000 after 4 years

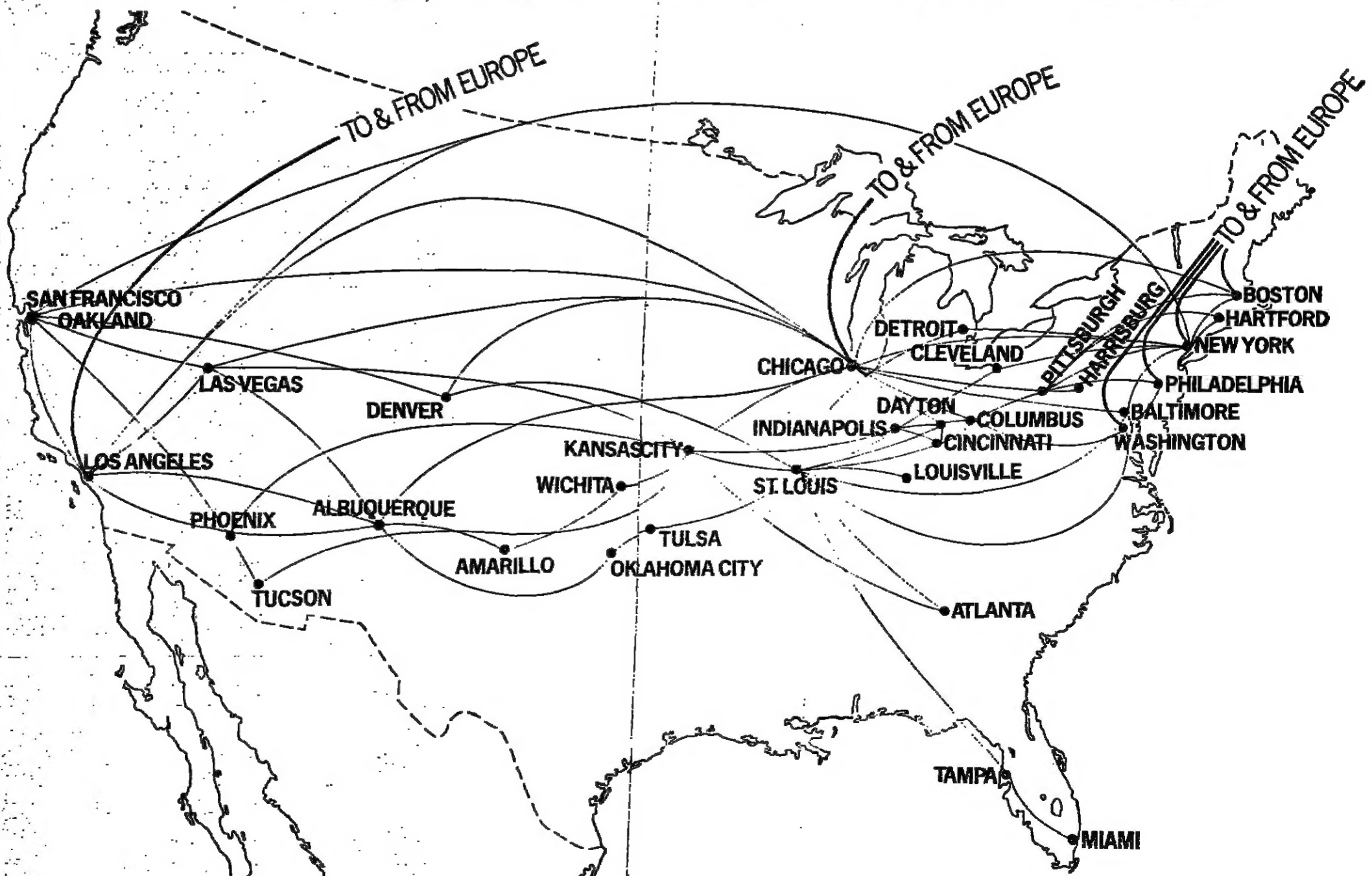
Madrid, May 19.—The Spanish Government, after four years of negotiations, has acquired the portrait of Jovellanos, by Goya, one of his most important paintings. It will be put on exhibition shortly at the Prado Museum in Madrid.

The canvas, painted in 1798, was bought by the Education Ministry from Viscount Innes's family for just over 40m pesetas (£210,000), informed sources said today.—Reuters.

Press protest

Stuttgart, May 19.—About 1,000 journalists, printers and newspaper technical workers marched through this city yesterday in protest against newspaper mergers.

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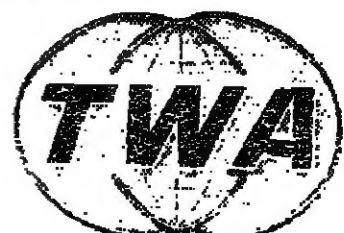
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OVERSEAS

Poll shows Americans retain great confidence in country's future despite loss of trust in Mr Nixon

From Fred Emery

Washington, May 19

With tested public confidence in the President as well as Congress, at a nadir no fewer than 55 per cent of Americans are seen to be retaining a high degree of confidence in the future of their country. This was reported at the weekend by the Gallup poll.

There is no paradox here, the mass Watergate and all that is the fault of the politicians. The stables will be cleaned out, even if it is taking time.

A common theme among those questioned, Dr Gallup reports, is that difficult times bring people together. Others take heart from the fact that the nation has been through much, but it emerged revitalized.

Of course there are variations. Among blacks the percentage of those expressing confidence was 45 against 72 for whites; with the under-29s it was only 53 per cent as against 72 per cent in the 30-49 age group.

Women, at 64 per cent, were showing slightly less confidence than men. Yet all of this is much better than the pundits have been predicting, and it shows the degree to which common sense and resilience prevail.

Whether any of it can be adduced to benefit the embattled President is doubtful, but that does not mean the White House will not try to put some of it to use. At the weekend a letter from a pro-Nixon (name deleted) student was released by the presidential press-gang. It expressed the plain-

tive hope that the "silent voices" drowned in the clamour might somehow "start a chain-reaction across the country".

It seemed to carry about as much persuasion as a chain-letter. But it illustrates the fact that the President's men are leaving nothing untried in the drive, yet again, to restore the tide that has virtually engulfed Mr Nixon.

Vice-President Ford, as if reacting differently on odd and even days, spoke up for the President this weekend. He told the Associated Press news agency in an interview he forwarded the President's position had been too much devoted to Watergate—he did not think "at the moment" there were enough votes in the House to impeach the President.

He put the ratio at 4-3 in Mr Nixon's favour. This is most unfashionable and is at odds with Mr Ford's colleagues in the Republican leadership.

At other forums, the Vice-President has been expressing the hope that once the judiciary committee impeachment proceedings are carried open on television they might redound to the President's benefit. Mr Ford has mentioned the presumed courtroom skills of Mr James St. Clair, the President's defence counsel, making it clear he is counting on him to cut up such witnesses as Mr John Dean. But having projected this hope, Mr Ford has almost invariably agreed that "it could be a disaster"—a disarming aside that tends to vitiate all assurances that went before.

Mr Ford, in the weekend interview, went on to suggest that any Middle East or foreign policy success could "substantially help" Mr Nixon's position, particularly if he were viewed as its principal architect.

Much of this is the current White House line, which, for the weekend, has been sited at Key Biscayne. The President has been taking helicopter hops, with his friend Mr Rebozo, to the cay owned by his other friend, Mr Abplanalp.

The President's men are going all out to demand that the judiciary committee proceedings be opened—even though it is only weeks since all sides had wanted the presentation of evidence kept confidential.

The change has been wrought by the leaking of two tape transcripts which have deepened the President's embarrassment. Representative Rodino, chairman of the judiciary committee, is trying to keep this phase closed. But at the weekend the vision camera stands were being erected inside the hearing room.

The rest of this week holds little promise for the President. The final report from the court-appointed experts of the 18-minute tape gap is to be published. And the courts have scheduled hearings on national security arguments being advanced in the case of the "plumbers" breaking and entering.

There are also further subpoenas to be answered and issued in the impeachment inquiry.

Supreme Soviet delegation pays visit to America

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, May 19

An official delegation from the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Parliament was due to be met here on arrival today by Mr Carl Albert, Speaker of the House of Representatives. It will be the first such visit to the United States since 1933.

Led by Mr Boris Ponomarev, an alternate member of the Communist Party's Politburo, the delegation is to spend three days on Capitol Hill, conferring with members of both House and Senate, and attending proceedings.

If a decision is made to end closed sessions they might possibly have the historic opportunity to attend the (to them) baffling impeachment proceedings of the House judiciary committee.

But the Russians are expected rather to concentrate on the stalled Trade Bill and to lobby against the Jackson amendment which is denying them most favoured nation status.

Secret rainmaking by US in Vietnam admitted

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, May 19

The Pentagon's secret rainmaking over the Ho Chi Minh trails, so often officially denied, has at last been officially admitted, with apologies to Congress for the deception.

Mr Melvin Laird, President Nixon's first-term Defence Secretary, has had to tell Congress he now understands the operations were continued during his tenure, without his knowledge.

It all came out this weekend with the release of testimony given on March 20 in a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's subcommittee on the oceans and international environment.

As it stands revealed, the Air Force, between 1967 and 1972, carried out 2,602 cloud-seeding missions over the North Vietnamese supply movements down the trails into South Vietnam, dropping a total of 47,409

canisters of silver and lead iodide mixtures.

Enemies to the trail passes in North Vietnam were reportedly taken off the target list after the formal bombing halt in 1968.

In true Catch 22 fashion, it is admitted the induced precipitation did not add much to the torrents already thrashing the trails during the rainy season. The subcommittee report revealed the Air Force dreamed up—and then rejected—dropping "amulifiers" (detergents) on the trails to make them more slippery.

There are, of course, more serious implications. It is not immediately apparent for instance, how or why the President and Dr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, kept knowledge from the top Pentagon civilians. Also, scientists are expressing varying levels of concern over such rainmaking with nature. It was such concern that led Senator Claiborne Pell to open his investigation.

Court blow up by man convicted of speeding

From Our Correspondent

Johannesburg, May 19

One of 38 people injured in a man convicted of speeding dropped a box of dynamite at a court at Potchefstroom Friday was dangerously today.

Mr G. Schoonhoven, age who suffered severe injuries, is under intensive at a Johannesburg hospital. The condition of two people, a man and a woman also said to be serious.

The man who dropped the bomb, Alexander Victor, year-old father of three, is accused of a robbery in a Johannesburg suburb. He was working as a tunnel blaster he had made threats "all the mine" to blow up the if he was convicted.

The bomb went off in a room seconds after Mr had been fined 50 rands for driving 40 mph in a 30 mph limit. The toll would have been high the room had not been blow completely.

Mr Victor made the from dynamite stolen from mine where he worked.

His widow, Mrs Sheila, said this weekend that he had been a drunk and a violent man.

The magistrate, Mr Sas who was saved from a injury because his heavy took most of the blast, as was puzzled when Mr Victor entered the dock holding a package but thought little he would never again people carrying packages enter his court.

Minister in New Zealand talks

Wellington, May 19—M

Ham Rodgers, British Minister of State for Defence, arrived in New Zealand today from a tour of talks on the review of defence policy. He will have talks with Mr Arthur Faulkner, Minister of Defence, and other officials, before leaving on day.—Reuter.

Kano airport closed because of runway

Lagos, May 19—Nigeria

and international airport Kano, has been closed to aircraft because of "threatening unreliable" of the runway. Nigerian Sunday Sketch said today.—Agence Presse.

Symbionese terrorists die in Los Angeles siege

From Peter Strafford

New York, May 19

Five leading members of the Symbionese Liberation Army, the Californian terrorist group, were killed when the police stormed the hideout in Los Angeles on Friday night.

The house, a yellow, stucco bungalow, went up in flames during the attack, which was watched on television by millions of people across the United States.

It was the SLA which kidnapped Miss Patricia Hearst, the newspaper heiress, in Berkeley, California, on February 4. Miss Hearst later announced that she was staying with the organization of her own free will, and at one time it was thought that she might be with the group on Friday.

Today, however, the last of the bodies had been identified, and the police said that Miss Hearst had not been there. They issued an appeal for information about a car that appeared to have her in it as one of the passengers.

Three of those killed in the attack, a man and two women, had been named by the police as being among those who took part in a raid on a bank in San Francisco last month, and were said to be the leading lights of

the SLA. Miss Hearst was with them during the raid, though there are doubts about whether she took part willingly.

The man was Mr Donald DeFreeze, a former police informer and convict, who described himself as "General Field Marshal Cinque" on tapes circulated by the SLA.

Mr Randolph Hearst, Miss Hearst's father, watched the attack on television. He was said afterwards to be "extremely apprehensive" about his daughter's safety, though he was relieved that she had not been in the SLA hideout when it was attacked.

The police tracked down the group after a shoplifting incident in Los Angeles during which a woman opened fire with a machine gun.

Some 150 police surrounded the bungalow in one of the black areas of the city. Those inside refused to surrender and the attack began, watched by crowds of people, many of them children, in a playground nearby.

At least two of the SLA members died of burns caused by the fire, the others from gunshot wounds. The police said they found semi-automatic weapons, shotguns and a revolver inside the bungalow.

Ambatielos doctor unable to trace his patient

From Our Correspondent

Athens, May 19

Dr Hugh Faulkner, of London, secretary of the Medical Practitioners' Union, has voiced concern that after five days in Athens he has been unable to establish the whereabouts of the condition of his patient, Mr Tony Ambatielos, the Greek communist leader who is under arrest.

Faulkner was sent to Greece by his organization, a section of the Association of Scientific, Technical, and Managerial Staffs, at the request of Mrs Betty Ambatielos, the wife of the prisoner. He left yesterday for Italy.

He said before leaving: "Although I have had a great deal of help and friendliness in Athens, I cannot but feel disturbed that neither Mr Ambatielos's family nor his lawyers seem to have any knowledge of his whereabouts or his medical condition."

The British Embassy had passed on his request for information and access to his patient, but there had been no reply yet. "If the authorities inform the British Embassy that I will be given facilities to see my patient, I will return to Athens for this purpose," he said.

Dr Faulkner said he sought the advice of Dr Romanos, president of the Medical Association, who urged him to visit the patient where he was, but he had difficulty in my seeing him the agreement of the ph in charge of his case."

Relatives of Mr Am had assured Dr Faulkner had heard he was at a military hospital in Athens had visited the hospital, a brigadier, who had advised him most friendly manner assured him that his patient in his hospital and the were no political detainees.

He also confirmed Dr Romanos's statement: "Regardless of any political situation, every Greek civil or military worker, any patient needing help receive the best available care", Dr Faulkner.

The arrest of Mr Am who is 60, and another Greek communist, announced on February 15, then said that they were put on trial for sedition have since been kept in custody. Three of them are on Yiaros Island.

39 Greeks to stand trial over meat scandal

From Our Correspondent

Athens, May 19

Thirty-nine Greeks, including one of the 13 Army colonels who seized power in 1967 to save Greece from corruption, are to be court-martialled in June on criminal charges relating to fraudulent meat imports, mainly from Rhodesia.

Sordid details of bribes, forgeries, favouritism, and weekly pockets of choice meatcuts to senior officials of the deposed Papadopoulos regime (including the President's brother), made absorbing reading in Athens today. All newspapers carried in full the 95 pages of findings by Captain George Tsoulas, the military police examining magistrate.

Mr Michael Balopoulos, one of the junta colonels who was Trade Under Secretary for a year until last September, is accused of "deliberately damaging the country's interests through acts of favouritism. Another charge for receiving bribes has been dropped.

The full responsibility for this was assumed by Mr Zafiris Papanichalopoulos, aged 56, director-general of the trade department, who was said to have tried to commit suicide while in detention by the military police. Mr Papanichalopoulos, known according to the report as "Uncle" among meat

importers, was said to have admitted receiving bribes. He led importers to believe that he was passing them on to Mr Balopoulos.

Banknotes to the value of £71,000 wrapped in old newspapers were seized in the official's home and those of relatives, the report stated. He had confessed that this and a sum of £57,000, already invested in property, had been proceeds from bribes by favoured meat importers.

Seventeen of the accused are meat importers, nine are officials of the government veterinary service who inspected the imported meat, and four are stockbrokers who admitted transferring currency to Swiss bank accounts on behalf of the meat merchants. A fifth stockbroker from Salonika, Philippos Iosifidis, was said to have hanged himself in his cell after arrest last January "evidently under the onus of his responsibility for currency and gold smuggling".

The accused importers had been granted, through bribery, a monopoly on all meat imports and had managed to control the market price of meat in Greece by inducing the Ministry to impose higher prices or to restrict the slaughter of domestic cattle. Mr Demetrios Fouroulis, one

of the accused, said he had been in friendly family relations with Mr Haralambos Papadopoulos, the brother of the then President, who used to send his chauffeur to the market each week to collect packets of fine steaks from his stand. The merchant said he received no payment, but the President's brother, who was then secretary-general of the Ministry of Public Order, had helped him over bank loans and tax problems.

The magistrate's report said that one of the accused meat merchants, Mr Savvas Tsomis, had imported from Rhodesia a total of 25,500 tons of fresh beef on South African certificates of origin forged in Athens. His invoices carried a \$200 (£83) surcharge for each ton and this enabled him to channel foreign exchange obtained from official account. The sum involved is believed to exceed \$4,700,000.

The report said that Mr Tsomis's partner, Mr Elias Maragos, who "has repented", had written to his Swiss bank in March, evidently while in detention, asking them to transfer to Athens the balance of his account amounting to \$325,000 "to return it to the state as compensation".

Other meat from Macedonia and Ethiopia, barred because of

foot-and-mouth disease, stockpiled in Antwerp, dam and the Canary until prices increase. brought Greek specifications. Chilled meat which was "aim for human consumption been forced on retail order of the Trade Ministry that no retailer could ordinary meat unless duce evidence of having chased some of the bad

The report asserted Stylianos Pattakos, the Prime Minister, had protests by other meat against such practices these imports serve the meat policy of keeping ket furnished with meat." He had authorized meat import certificates of origin.

The meat scandal is in a series of malpractices the present regime, who power on November promised to expose bringing the citizens Readers of today's report ever, said they were led so many leads in the lion pointing to relations former rulers had passed. After nearly 50 in power, the investigations produced no other corruption.

British boy runs into fresh trouble in Turkey

The economical BMW Range includes: BMW 2002, £2599 - BMW 2002 Touring, £2449 - BMW 2002i, £3199 - BMW 2002 Turbo, £4299 - BMW 2002 Cabriolet, £3949 - BMW 520i, £5499 - BMW 524i, £5999 - £6499 - £6999 - £7499 - £7999 - BMW 624i, £8499 - BMW 630i, £9499 - BMW 724i, £10,499 - BMW 730i, £11,499 - BMW 740i, £12,499 - BMW 750i, £13,499 - BMW 760i, £14,499 - BMW 770i, £15,499 - BMW 780i, £16,499 - BMW 790i, £17,499 - BMW 850i, £18,499 - BMW 860i, £19,499 - BMW 870i, £20,499 - BMW 880i, £21,499 - BMW 890i, £22,499 - BMW 900i, £23,499 - BMW 910i, £24,499 - BMW 920i, £25,499 - BMW 930i, £26,499 - BMW 940i, £27,499 - BMW 950i, £28,499 - BMW 960i, £29,499 - BMW 970i, £30,499 - BMW 980i, £31,499 - BMW 990i, £32,499 - BMW 1000i, £33,499 - BMW 1010i, £34,499 - BMW 1020i, £35,499 - BMW 1030i, £36,499 - BMW 1040i, £37,499 - BMW 1050i, £38,499 - BMW 1060i, £39,499 - BMW 1070i, £40,499 - BMW 1080i, £41,499 - BMW 1090i, £42,499 - BMW 1100i, £43,499 - BMW 1110i, £44,499 - BMW 1120i, £45,499 - BMW 1130i, £46,499 - 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Dankaro comfortably holds off challenge by Mississippian

Montefract programme

Pontefract selections

Windsor programme

Windsor selections

Southwell

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Bundelson wins trophy on his first visit

Apalachee may yet run in Derby

Hamilton Park programme

Hamilton Park selections

Wolverhampton programme

Wolverhampton selections

Newbury results

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

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Tidworth event again won by Kersley

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 leader: 17min)

Today's third meeting of the joint commission on British and Soviet cooperation in science and technology is potentially the most important in its four-year history. Renée Short reports.

Time to show the Russians we mean business

In 1968 Britain and the Soviet Union signed an agreement for cooperation in science and technology. Mr. Modley and Mr. Wedgwood Benn signed for Britain and Academician V. Kirillin, Chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, for the Soviet Union.

As a result, a joint commission was set up in 1970. It has met twice—once in London in 1971, under the chairmanship of Mr. John Davies, as Minister for Trade and Industry, and then in Moscow in 1973, when Mr. Peter Walker, Mr. Davies's successor, led the British team. The third meeting is due to start in London today.

The 1968 agreement set up a number of working groups, most of them the responsibility of the CBI, to explore the opportunities for cooperation in the development of scientific instruments, electricity supply and transmission, medical instruments, building materials, machine tools and transport.

The joint commission will, of course, review the progress made by the working groups. It cannot be disguised, however, that its achievements so far have been disappointing. There is no doubt that the events of 1971, when more than 100 officials of the Soviet Embassy and Trade Delegation were requested to leave Britain, had a profound effect on Soviet opinion in the higher echelons of the government.

In talks some members of Parliament had recently with Mr. Kirillin himself, with Mr. Shitikov, the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, and at the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the point was made to us, in sorrow, not in anger, it must be said, that our mutual trade had suffered, but that we must put all those things behind us and look forward to a new era of cooperation to our mutual benefit.

Britain's trade with the Soviet Union since the 1968 agreement has been:

	Exports	Imports
1969	97.16	197.15
1970	102.40	210.50
1971	88.80	205.20
1972	90.58	224.64

During this period however, Soviet imports did well and while some of these include diamonds, furs and timber, which are re-exported, there is no escaping the fact that our export trade is abysmally low.

Nevertheless, some interesting projects have been carried out. At the Institute of High Energy Physics at Serpukhov where the huge accelerator was launched in October 1967, an example of real international cooperation with physicists

The author is Labour MP for Wolverhampton North-East.

Ulster: how the militants took power away from the politicians

Belfast, May 19

Ulster's anti-Sunningdale general strike and the subsequent state of emergency, became inevitable last Monday when a group of Protestant workers met several of the most prominent Loyalist politicians in Northern Ireland at an obscure hotel in Larnie and quietly informed them that they intended to create industrial and commercial chaos in the province. The Rev. Ian Paisley, Mr. Ernest Baird of Farnham, and Mr. John Taylor, the ex-Minister of Home Affairs at Stormont, was also there—were taken completely by surprise by this fait accompli. Mr. Hugh Petrie, Mr. Harry Murray and their colleagues in the Ulster Workers' Council who turned up, made it clear that they had already laid their plans for strikes on Wednesday in the shipyards, aircraft manufacturing plant and electricity stations. Mr. Paisley and his supporters argued vigorously against them for nearly three hours on the ground that such drastic measures should only be used as a last resort but by lunchtime they eventually realized that their advice was not going to be heeded.

It was a disturbing experience for them. For the first time since the Assembly elections last summer, the Loyalist politicians had in effect been told by the hardliners in their own camp that if they did not toe the line they would be largely ignored. Power, in the course of just one sunny morning on the Antrim coast, passed almost effortlessly from the hands of the politicians to the self-elected militants.

That single meeting explains much of what happened in the following week. The cryptic warnings from Mr. William Craig, the Vanguard leader,

made it seem as though he was running the strike rather than being carried in it, while the formal condemnation by the Workers' Council of intimidation in Belfast now appears to have been the work of the politicians (little effect though it had). When Mr. Craig and the three Assemblymen who accompanied him to Stormont Castle on Friday—Mr. Paisley had by this time left for a funeral in Canada—described themselves as "intermediaries" in their conversation with Mr. Rees, the Secretary of State, they spoke truer than the British Government probably realized.

The signs, however, were there for all to see. Based at Mr. Craig's Vanguard headquarters all week, for example, were the UWC leaders and among the visitors was Mr. Sammy Smyth, the political spokesman for the UDA. One of the UDA's leading officers—a man who for good reason rarely courts publicity—could also be seen occasionally going with the presence of the party offices in the Belfast suburbs while on Friday a man from the (just) legalised Ulster Volunteer Force could be found standing near the over-

grown, rain-soaked lawn outside the building, scarcely five feet from the bucolic figure of Mr. Harry West, Fernmanagh farmer and leader—both at Westminster and in the Assembly—of the official Unionist Party. The UVE man and the UDA officer both travelled to Stormont Castle with Mr. Paisley and the UWC officially as "observers".

It is not difficult to see how the politicians came to grief since it was through no fault of their own. During the Assembly election last year, they promised to bring down the power-sharing executive and vowed that Mr. Faulkner, now the Chief Minister, would never be allowed to reach the dispatch box—something they signally failed to do.

The general election, however, showed that they were not so sure of their own strength. They had to accept that how many thousands of Protestants disliked the Sunningdale agreement and the administration set up under it, by providing Loyalists with 11 of the 12 Westminster seats.

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Why Portugal's colonies are unwilling to discuss independence

The biggest hurdle that the regime in Portugal now has to face is the future of the African empire. Already positions on this are being taken up, and as democracy returns a split is becoming apparent within the new government. Dr. Soares, the socialist leader, and Senor Cunha, the communist leader, have already made it clear that they will support full independence. General Spínola's attitude was made clear a year ago when he advocated a political solution involving some sort of federation.

This is not necessarily the answer that the junta as a whole would like. General da Costa Gomes, on his recent trip to Angola, said that the liberation movements will be accepted as political parties if they lay down some good faith by releasing many of the detained guerrillas in all the overseas territories and offering cease-fires.

The liberation movements' reactions have been unequivocal so far. While welcoming the coup, they have expressed their determination to fight on. In an interview with the BBC's African Service recently Dr. Neto, leader of one of the Angolan movements, MPLA, said: "But to end this war, we must have a complete and total victory over the Portuguese." For our movement, for MPLA, the idea of a federation is unacceptable. We cannot accept that our external relations, our finance, our defence, be in the hands of a white man, to be completely independent.

Spoken for Frelimo, and other liberation groups, have made it clear that such attitudes are shared by them all. The fact that talks are about to start over Guinea-Bissau does not indicate that for these the Portuguese control is already virtually gone. Negotiations are not in fact precluded elsewhere but essentially, the scope has been limited in advance. Talks must incorporate a timetable, and a relatively swift one, for complete independence.

The liberation movements have some reason for such attitudes. In Guinea-Bissau, where the PAIGC was established in 1963 and turned to armed struggle in 1963, the movement was able to develop for itself a considerable base in spite of the assassination of its leader, Amílcar Cabral.

Now, there is little doubt that for all General Spínola's "hearts and minds" campaign, the PAIGC is in control of much of the country. In Mozambique, where the Frelimo movement was formed in 1962 and began military activity two years later, it also made significant progress in spite of the assassination of its leader, Dr. Eduardo Mondlane, in 1968.

Originally confined to the northern two provinces, it now operates throughout Tete and along the routes linking Beira with the interior. This narrow centre of Mozambique is strategically vital, and Frelimo's activities threaten to cut the country in two. In its steady southward advance, Frelimo is also moving into an area where it expects to find considerable support, for many of its leaders come from that part.

In both Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique there have been only single movements of military significance. In Angola the situation has been complicated by serious divisions. Three major groups exist. There is GRAP, with its military wing the FLNA, under Holden Roberto, that operates out of Zaire and is concentrated in the north. A splinter group, UNITA, is active in the centre of Angola, though it is handicapped by the lack of a secure base. The third, and most radical group, is the MPLA under Dr. Neto, which carries out operations largely in the eastern part. This has suffered from further internal dissensions, especially in the past year.

With Portugal setting its face firmly against any independence declarations by the white and being in a position to enforce this, there is no incentive for the liberation movements to come to a conference, since this would mean the independence is stretched.

The Portuguese Army recognized that a military victory for Portugal is impossible. The reverse of this—a military victory for the liberation movements—has, however, not been achieved. In Angola, especially in view of the fact that the strain of the war is led to the coup in Portugal. With several of the political parties in Portugal calling for independence, the pressure on the white rulers to settle the problem of the overseas territories and to do it quickly, is increasing.

Liberation movements may calculate that this will lead to acceptance of their terms of independence. Time is on their side, not the junta's.

Patrick Gilk

Mediterranean build-up that is more than just a cat and mouse game

Spain, as a non-member, provides the Soviet Union, and the new Soviet warships have not prevented the United States from regarding some influence in the region.

The Russians, in contrast, have bases only in Syria and, more tenuously, in Egypt. They have to fly in by a somewhat circuitous route over Yugoslavia. They use a number of airbases, and a number of ships, in the North African shore but in purely military terms they are relatively exposed, lacking air cover, and remote from home bases, though their large submarine fleet does pose a significant challenge which NATO may be ill-equipped to meet.

Obviously the situation could change quite rapidly if any of the key points changed hands or allegiance, and especially if Yugoslavia slipped back into the Soviet orbit. Some people fear that it might. This does not seem to be persuasive so far, but the general unpredictability of the area makes it a bit of a nightmare for both alliances—a messy patchwork of inaccessible land and water surrounded by volatile nations of all complexions.

The two countries are in a simultaneously a strategic area in its own right, a gateway to the Arab world, and the extended southern flank of the alliance cut off from land access by Switzerland, Austria, France and Spain. It is therefore highly dependent on maritime communications.

For the Russians it is also the main road to the Arabs, and when Suez is open again it will be the way to the Indian Ocean, cutting many thousands of miles off the journey.

How concerned should we be about the Russian build-up? Obviously political influence does not automatically follow the flag. American dominance of the Mediterranean did not

prevent the Soviet Union gaining influence in Nasser's Egypt. The new Soviet warships have not prevented the United States from regarding some influence in the region.

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Obviously the situation could change quite rapidly if any of the key points changed hands or allegiance, and especially if Yugoslavia slipped back into the Soviet orbit. Some people fear that it might. This does not seem to be persuasive so far, but the general unpredictability of the area makes it a bit of a nightmare for both alliances—a messy patchwork of inaccessible land and water surrounded by volatile nations of all complexions.

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Richard Ellis

The Times Diary

When Saul went to the bathroom

ing and teaching" becomes "to another is given the ability to speak with knowledge". We are, at least, spared an anachronistic Samuel in Samuel 24 v 3 we have "Saul went into a cave to relieve himself". For this, the Americans were told: "Saul went into a cave to go to the bathroom".

Moving in (1)

The shade of the last Lord Stanhope will be applauding the decision that the Prince of Wales will be the tenant of Chevening House, his ancestral country seat near Sevenoaks. He said in 1965, after showing Prince Charles over the house, that he would succeed me at Chevening.

Moving in (2)

To everyone's disappointment, President Nixon neglected to ask Sir Peter Ramsbotham, the British ambassador in Washington, about the condition of his official residence these past months. If he had, Sir Peter could have murmured: "United States Ambassador Walter Annenberg's notorious words that it was 'subject to the need for elements of refurbishment'."

easy to clean tiles and Formica, as well as substantial redecoration of the public rooms.

Since their arrival, the Ramsbothams have been living in the apartment formerly Vice-President Spiro Agnew used to occupy—which just happened to fall vacant (when Agnew was forced to resign) at the right moment. It is in the old Sheraton Park Hotel. Lord and Lady Cromer lived there for several months before heading over to the Ramsbothams, their successors.

Peter and Lady Ramsbotham and Lady, the 12-year-old Embassy child who has seen more ambassadors than she can count, all moved back this month.

Upstairs there were some wrinkles to be ironed out of the new system. The weather had turned cool, but the air-conditioning was already switched on. Lady Ramsbotham was wearing her coat with the fur collar turned up.

The Embassy building officer, Tom Colquhoun, went around demonstrating how to use the new heating-cooling panels. Mind you, no one would have improved on Agnew's bronze hearing pipes. It was the warmest house in town, Colquhoun said. "But Lutyens couldn't give us air conditioning."

Encounter

With the overseas division of British Airways on strike, other airlines' flights to the Americas are nearly all full to capacity. No chance at all of getting a bank of three seats to yourself to facilitate sleeping. As passengers hunch together, spilling into each other's laps, there is one way of avoiding genuine social contact.

Returning from New York at the weekend, I sat next to a blonde, bronzed woman, immaculately turned out. She had

easy to clean tiles and Formica, as well as substantial redecoration of the public rooms.

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THE LOYALIST OFFENSIVE

state of Ireland, all Ireland, is dangerous now even than the aftermath of the London shootings and subsequent explosion of Stormont. Two new make it so. First, it is now and so whether the policy which has been fashioned so much difficulty between Irish and British governments men of moderation in both communities in Northern Ireland cannot live, if the attempt to the representatives of the public affairs of the Irish in those arrangements, then the course of rumour and moderation will be tried and found want its protagonists will have their chance and failed in endeavour. The claims of men with other notions will advance. The often quoted of Years will be immune over his country. "Times apart, the centre cannot hold. The blood-dimmed tide is on, and everywhere the ebb of innocence is fled."

a second new factor making the severity of the danger to Ireland is that, more than before, Ulster loyalist organizations formed the contemplation of extra-constitutional action are moving to the offensive. Their aim with the explosions in Friday noon is not yet proven, but it is highly likely. But it is no concealment, however, use of the less murderous more powerful device of a general strike.

a man or woman responsible for the bombs in the Republic's execution. Mr Liam Rave's broadcast that night oporately combined the best denunciation of the dead generosity towards those who have suffered similarly in the h. The outrage drives home point with tragic force that rity in the island of Ireland is first countermeasure of the

INDIA JOINS THE NUCLEAR POWERS

la has now become the world's nuclear power. Whatever may say about the peaceful roses of last week's test the remains that she has, or very arily has, a bomb. Indeed, the hology required to put clear explosions to peaceful is more advanced than that nired to make bombs. She s, of course, need an effective ury system if the military ications are to be taken lously but she has already en some steps along the road rockery. Meanwhile she has oplains which would be taken ously by all but the most and countries. In the club ch India has just joined it is only what you can actually do matters but what people k you might be able to do. ere is a special sadness about s joining this club as she alway claimed to speak with al authority on the subject on-violence, non-alignment, ace. Those who have always tioned this right will now be etter position to do so. The s will also be received with pleasure by those who are

avid Wood voice ying in the iderness

of the cleverly measured nce publicity for Mr Enoch ll's address to the Conservative ent Group in London on Satur set out to create the impression he had grown weary of life in wilderness and now, with a lity of spirit that only the big men are capable of, wished to taken back into the Conservative Past differences, ran the synop of his theme, had been removed he flux of time. The day for re n had come. Let Mr Heath and Conservative Party managers pt the olive branch as gracefully was being offered.

was, at best, an odd interpreta of Mr Powell's known situation possible motives. After all, he benefited from the Conservative y's long history of tolerant treat of rebels and misfits. He had been expelled from the party and parliamentary whip had not 1 withdrawn from him. He re ed the Conservative candidature. Wolverhampton, South-West, ntarily and on February 28 d Labour, in spite of his proud aration that he had been born a y and would die a Tory.

Mr Powell wants to be a Cona tive he does not need the bless of Mr Heath as party chairman. need only enlist with a Conserva constituency association and the d is done, for there is no central y register of members. So far Mr Heath and Lord Carrington w. Mr Powell has never ceased a member of the Conservative

trial of strength. It still has to be seen whether the Ulster Workers' Council, even with the use of intimidation and even with the menace it projects of illegal military organizations in the background, can paralyse the economic life of the province. The trade unions are bracing themselves to prove otherwise. They have been a moderating influence throughout the past five years, and their latest effort in that direction deserves every support.

If the power stations and other literally indispensable services are stopped, troops are standing by and must be used to secure the sustenance and safety of the civil population. This is a strike in which there must be no capitulation by the authorities. Their credit would not survive it.

Resolution to withstand the strike does not entail political inflexibility. It had better be recognized that the full terms of the Sunningdale agreement cannot be implemented in present conditions in Northern Ireland. Mr Faulkner's Unionists are believed to have been trying to agree with their partners on the Executive to divide the establishment of the Council of Ireland into stages. The first stage, to come at once, would consist of a council of ministers drawn from the two Administrations in Ireland and having no executive powers. Development of that into a council in the form provisionally agreed at Sunningdale would have to await popular endorsement at the next Assembly elections held in due time, or held after an interval sufficient for the people to have experienced the new institutions.

Mr Faulkner's party and the SDLP now both have the strongest incentive to reach some understanding. It is probably the only way forward from the post-Sunningdale impasse, and unless there is forward movement, the policy of which Sunningdale is an integral part overbalances. And if the strike proves obdurate, the announcement of that agreement would provide a reason or a pretext for the strike's organizers to recoil from chaos.

which the non-nuclear states which did sign are at a disadvantage—any rate assuming the doubtful proposition that nuclear weapons are necessarily an advantage for all countries.

Probably, therefore, India has brought forward the moment when other countries will join the club. A great many could do so fairly easily including Pakistan, Israel, and Japan. It is possible to argue that the prospect is acceptable because nuclear weapons tend to have a sobering effect on those who possess them. But the faster nuclear weapons spread the thinner the restraints breed the danger and the greater risk of disaster. India's test should stimulate efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation treaty and to ban underground tests. Even if such efforts have no more than a delaying effect they will be useful, but they should also serve to counter fatalism and to provoke second thoughts among those who see nuclear weapons as status symbols. Meanwhile, the balance of power in the southern hemisphere has begun a slow shift. The effects will take time to emerge.

backbenchers who hanker for grand set-piece battles in the Commons and from those who believe that the quickest and cleanest way to change party policies is to change the policy-makers.

To exploit that party situation Mr Powell, again scarcely by chance, has singled out five issues on which Mr Heath is known to have recommended himself for the next general election. None of the policy reviews now taking place within the Shadow Cabinet raises questions about the floating pound, defence policy, immigration policy, or the need to have in reserve a statutory prices and incomes policy if a voluntary policy is unsustainable. They remain part and parcel of Mr Heath's leadership, and to challenge them is directly to challenge Mr Heath.

For that reason Mr Powell's speech on Saturday must be seen by Mr Heath, the Shadow Cabinet, and the majority of the Conservative parliamentary party as an insidious continuation of the campaign he has waged so busily against his former colleagues. It is all of a piece with what they remember of him when he shared their counsels in Shadow Cabinet after Mr Heath's election as party leader in 1965. He lost their trust then, and has never regained it. They accept neither his curiously potent rigid logic nor the purity of his motives.

Mr Powell has made it too plain that he realizes his high political ambition can now be fulfilled only in a hurry and only in circumstances of catastrophe for the party he wants to lead; and his frustration is such that he allows himself to become the agent of party catastrophe.

It is not a prescription that could ever recommend itself to a party that has always understood that the end of politics is power, and therefore it hardly matters any longer whether Mr Powell is in or outside Westminster—he would still be a voice crying in the wilderness of his own tragic choice.

The real troubles besetting society

From Mr J. Grimond, Liberal MP for Orkney and Shetland

Sir, The present uproar over the state of our society seems rather misdirected. There may well be corruption in local government. I do not know. There may even be a slackening of standards in the civil service. But corruption among Members of Parliament seems small.

Of course it is possible to take exception to Members being supported by trades unions or teachers, police, firemen, or bookies. Myself, I find it surprising that this system raises so few eyebrows. It has, however, gone on a long time, is apparently respectable and even now is to be stopped—merely registered. If these practices are wrong they should be stopped—not simply registered.

What are far more serious are two growing habits which are quite inadequately condemned. One is the facility with which some top people seem to find themselves so handsomely rewarded.

Countries are destroyed from the top. Nations are broken up by many things that are valuable in our life. But inflation is not the fault of Lord Feather or Mr Jack Jones—even Mr Scanlon plays a secondary part. It is the responsibility of the men at the top of the establishment. Invidious as it may be to pick on individuals who may be personally able, hard-working and doing no more than the system accepts, to bring home what mean individual cases can hardly be avoided because it is individual examples which count.

Golden hand-shakes of £80,000 are still paid. Chairmen and managing directors, whatever their blunders and losses, do not resign, often push up their salaries and perquisites and never take a reduction. I am perturbed about the news that a very senior and respected civil servant who was believed to be intimately involved in the previous government's policy of income control and who is presumably entitled to what was considered an adequate pension should go off at once to be chairman of a bank at £34,000 a year. I go on press reports which may be inaccurate and I agree that it is not the business of a small child and take off its ears. Angers and nose one by one until I get my way. I should then at least get an interview on TV. No doubt, too, I should receive sympathetic support from those who attribute it all to the wickedness of the capitalist system or to the wickedness of the Government of the Monday Club. If anyone interfered they would be castigated by some of the press for irresponsible conduct.

It is somewhat typical of the inherent lack of any proper scale of values in our society that the immediate reaction to the capture of those excellently flayed by Bernard Levin last week—skirted round while the press work themselves into a lather over a registrar of MPs' interests.

J. GRIMOND, House of Commons, May 17.

Computers and privacy

From Mr Paul Sieghart

Sir, As the draftsman of Justice's Right of Privacy Bill which Mr Butler-Walden introduced in the House of Commons in 1970 and which led to the appointment of the Younger Committee, I should like to welcome Marcel Berthoin's excellent article which you published on May 16. But may I add one important point?

Neither Justice nor the Younger Committee found themselves able to make any recommendations for the protection of the privacy of records held in computers or, more accurately, electronic data banks. Both committees, recognizing the importance, but also the difficulties, of this part of the subject, could only recommend that it should be further studied.

But time is passing, and more and more computer systems are being installed and—far more important—connected up with each other so that they can share the information which they hold. I know that the computer industry is now aware of the threat which its art or craft could pose to privacy in the hands of malevolent or unscrupulous interests, and has devised systems, programmes and procedures which can make some sense of the problem. But, as we like, provided that someone tells them what information is to be treated as sensitive, and what level and type of protection we want for it. But no one in this country has so far given them any of the guidance or even for doing something to avert it, while retaining the benefits which the machines can undoubtedly give us. I do most sincerely hope that we shall not have to wait much longer.

We are long past the phase of alerting public opinion to the proximate threat. Most people who have ever heard about computers and value their privacy are only too well aware of it. The time is already overdue for doing something to avert it, while retaining the benefits which the machines can undoubtedly give us. I do most sincerely hope that we shall not have to wait much longer.

PAUL SIEGHART, 6 Gray's Inn Square, WC1, May 16.

Natural justice

From Professor A. H. Robertson

Sir, The action of the Divisional Court in quashing the conviction of a Greek shipmaster on the ground that he had not been given reasonable time to prepare his case (*The Times*, May 11) is to be welcomed, all the more so as it will constitute guidance for magistrates on dealing with applications for adjournment.

The court's decision on your report, based its decision on natural justice. It might also have invoked the much more specific provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, ratified by the United Kingdom in 1951, Article 6 of which expressly guarantees to an accused person *inter alia* the right "to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence."

The effectiveness of the convention is strengthened when the courts invoke its provisions in cases to which they are directly relevant, such as that decided last week. It is noteworthy that the House of Lords did so recently for the first time when it refused to accord retrospective effect to the Immigration Act 1971 and cited in support both the Universal Declaration and the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 7 of which prohibits the retrospective application of criminal legislation. (*The Times*, May 21).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stately homes and the wealth tax

From the Duke of Bedford

Sir, I was interested to read Mr Stewart Tiedler's article on May 11 on the stately home business and its probable plight as a result of the proposed Wealth Tax.

Since handing over Woburn to my son my wife and I have been overwhelmed and deeply touched by hundreds of letters from appreciative visitors from a wide cross section of people all of whom express the wish that Woburn and similar places may long continue. Whatever ones views on the Wealth Tax may be, one deduces from these letters that it would generally be regarded as a tragedy by many people if these houses which bring so much pleasure and enjoyment were to go.

British architects, artists and craftsmen have worked so long and so hard to adorn and enrich these places which form so much a part of the history of the country. Will anything be gained by destroying all this beauty and craftsmanship that is appreciated by so wide a public who regard these houses as part of their heritage?

The idea that we should all be living in masses of semi-detached bungalows all enjoying equal incomes and equal opportunity is some people's idea of paradise especially if one can accept the belief that people are born equally intelligent, hard working and ambitious. However, it has been my experience over nearly 20 years in constant contact with the public that they long to escape into more beautiful and spacious surroundings and become depressed and frustrated by the monotony and drabness of the confined life in tower blocks and suburban developments.

Our stately homes were created so that a privileged class could live a pleasant and enjoyable life. Surely, if they are to survive in the future they should become places that everyone could enjoy? Living in

Parliamentary drafting

From Sir Desmond Heape

Sir, Mr Antony Lewis's plea for greater simplicity in the Finance Bill and the Consumer Credit Bill (May 11) is one which should be heard and cleared up in many quarters. The need for real improvements in our Statute Book is all too obvious when such complaints are made by those concerned with using and applying statutes in industry and commerce as well as in the law.

His example of referential legislation whereby the earlier enactment (in this case section 7 of the Improvement of Land Act 1899) is applied in a later statute by mere reference to the relevant section and without repetition of its subject matter, can be found multiplied countless times throughout the Statute Book. Worse still is the occasional policy of the draftsman to refer to sections of old Acts long since superseded by subsequent legislation. In the example given by Mr Lewis the relevant provisions of the 1899 Act were repealed by the Improvement of Land Act (1899) Amendment Act 1925.

Such a drafting technique prevents both public and practitioners alike from reading through a statute with reasonable ease and comprehension. It often involves the user in much time consuming research and erroneous understanding because of subsequent replacements or amendments.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons 1875 stated that referential legislation "seems to be increasing, and when carried to excess makes the statute so ambiguous, so obscure and so difficult of

Death for hijacking

From Mr Paul Buxton

Sir, Mr George Gale, arguing for the return of the death penalty for "murderous hijackers" (May 17), claims that no one will risk his life to rescue a dead hijacker. Perhaps not. But in almost any country some days must pass between the capture of a hijacker and his execution. During that period, the incentive—indeed moral imperative—upon his colleagues to rescue him will be immeasurably increased. On Mr Gale's own reasoning, it will be now or never. So this renewal of the death penalty may be accompanied by an intensification of hijacking blackmail, of however brief duration on any occasion.

I am as certain of the mental processes of hijackers as I imagine Mr Gale to be, but his debating point deserves to be followed through: which leaves the arguments for and against capital punishment pretty much where they were.

Yours faithfully, PAUL BUXTON, Castle House, Chipping Ongar, Essex, May 17.

Future of Concorde

From Mr P. M. Oppenheimer

Sir, On page 25 of *The Times* (May 15) Lord Watkinson is quoted as attacking the Government's plan for greater intervention in private industry and insisting that private enterprise and the profit motive are indispensable guarantors of personal freedom. On page 19 of the same paper the same Lord Watkinson argues in a letter that the Government must continue to pour resources into Concorde, because in the end this aircraft will "create off the top and thus most profitable layer of passenger transport."

The word "profitable" in its usual sense describes an economic activity where sufficient revenue is earned to leave something over as a return on investment, after wages and other current costs have been met. By contrast, in the case of Concorde the airlines see no prospect of breaking even, unless they can buy the plane at a price well below its marginal production cost, never mind the £1,000 million development cost which is being arbitrarily written off anyhow. Perhaps Lord Watkinson would care to explain how the values of a liberal society will be safeguarded by allowing him and his boardroom friends to fly superpersonally round the world at the taxpayers' expense.

Yours faithfully, PETER M. OPPENHEIMER, Christ Church, Oxford, May 15.

Debauching a currency

From Dr D. E. Moggridge

Sir, In your recent correspondence concerning the gold standard there has been some dispute between R. Palme Dutt (May 11) and Lord Boothby (May 12) over Keynes's citation of Lenin. The quotation in question appears on page 148 of *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* (1971 edition): "Lenin is said to have declared that the best way to destroy the capitalist system was to debauch the currency."

Yours faithfully, D. E. MOGGIDGE, Clare College, Cambridge.

Stately homes and the wealth tax

such places may appear a dream to the casual visitor. Personally I have found it a very mixed blessing and frequently a nightmare. If one is an art lover and a perfectionist one never ever begins to have nearly enough money to have everything in the state of repair it warrants. One never sees the beauty of what has been restored, only the backlog of dilapidation that lies ahead.

The ways and means of making the money that these houses demand is an extremely tiring and sometimes degrading experience. However, if one loves one's house and wishes to pay tribute to those artists and craftsmen who created so much beauty in any individual sacrifice seems worthwhile as long as posterity may continue to enjoy it. However, they will have little appeal if they are to be denuded of their contents when the owners are forced to sell them to pay the wealth tax. They will become empty ruins and their parks and gardens a wilderness.

I wonder whether a compromise solution could be reached whereby the tax could be paid with works of art but they could be left in situ as long as the public was free to see them. There is nothing better than to visit a large house without furniture and works of art. Equally drab are great works of art exhibited in museums and galleries in a clinical setting. Both are mortuous.

English stately homes are one of our greatest tourist attractions both for visitors from home and overseas. Let us hope a compromise solution may be found so that these unique and precious collections can be preserved and the wealth tax paid. I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant, BEDFORD, Hotel Palacio des Seteais, Sintra, Portugal, May 15.

Parliamentary drafting

From Sir Desmond Heape

Sir, Mr Antony Lewis's plea for greater simplicity in the Finance Bill and the Consumer Credit Bill (May 11) is one which should be heard and cleared up in many quarters. The need for real improvements in our Statute Book is all too obvious when such complaints are made by those concerned with using and applying statutes in industry and commerce as well as in the law.

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The Select Committee of the House of Commons 1875 stated that referential legislation "seems to be increasing, and when carried to excess makes the statute so ambiguous, so obscure and so difficult of

Archbishop's election

From Canon Joseph Robinson

Sir, Your reporter in writing of the nomination of Dr Coggan by the Queen to the Metropolitan See of Canterbury, refers to "the formality of election by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury" (May 1), as an election. In my part, by no means regard the election as a formality but as a necessary instrument by means of which the church could resist an ill-considered choice by the state. The fact that the instrument has not been so used in the past is no guarantee that it may not be used at some time in the future.

It so happens that I shall be delighted to cast my vote for Dr Coggan, but there have been names bruited about as being on Leadbroke's list against which I would have voted, and urged my colleagues to do likewise. Perhaps now the pleasure which your reporter shares with us all in the announcement of Dr Coggan's nomination may be tinged with some small regret that it has caused him to lose some interesting and entertaining copy.

Yours faithfully, JOSEPH ROBINSON, Canon of Canterbury, 15 The Precincts, Canterbury.

Life in Outer Space

From Mr Alastair Henderson

Sir, Did any of our eminent scientists and science fiction writers at a meeting of the Royal Society (May 3), or did Mr John Maddox, whose article was printed on May 14, pause to consider what might happen after we have congratulated ourselves on contacting life in Outer Space?

Presumably, if this life can understand and reply to our messages, it will have a technology and intelligence equal to, and probably far exceeding, ours.

What happens if this life is similar to life on Earth? Who among our eminent scientists would have recommended the native people of North America, South America and Australia to contact life in Europe?

If this life in Outer Space is totally different to our life, we can comprehend the ensuing dangers? Surely there is enough danger of our destroying life on earth without searching for another intelligence which might also do it.

Not some of these eminent scientists and science fiction writers, who have spent years wondering how to communicate with alien forms of life, spend a life time wondering about the munde problem of how to help alienated human beings communicate with each other?

Yours faithfully, ALASTAIR HENDERSON, 119 Hamilton Terrace, N.Y.

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EDO director urges joint code for union dealings with employers

By Routledge Correspondent

While there could be a series of agreements in different industries and companies on the scope of collective bargaining, it would suggest that there might be advantages in embodying the principle in a general code of conduct drawn up jointly by the CBI and the TUC.

The EDO director-general identified a second category of "strategic" decisions—such as diversification, mergers and acquisitions, movement to a new location, and introduction of new technology—which determined the future prospects and character of a company.

"While society and industry are organized as they are at present in a basically market-oriented economy, I do not think these are suitable areas for joint regulation and collective bargaining," he argued.

"In this area joint regulation could act as a brake on innovation and enterprise and on the development of the new methods and approaches which we as a country need so badly if we are to meet international competition."

However, I believe it is time to recognize that these are matters in which employers have a close and legitimate interest, and boards of directors must take it into account when making decisions.

In my view the first step should be an acceptance of the principle that in such strategic areas, which responsibility must rest with directors, their discretion is not unqualified.



Mr. J. Lindsay Alexander, chairman of Ocean Transport and Trading.

Ocean group may sell unbuilt gas tanker

By Peter Hill

Soaring building costs and growing nationalism in the shipping policies of gas-producing countries may lead to Ocean Transport and Trading seeking a buyer for a liquefied natural gas carrier it ordered three years ago.

The Liverpool-based Ocean group ordered the 120,000-cu-metre capacity ship in 1971 from the French yard of Chantiers de l'Atlantique at a cost of between £25m and £30m. The ship is scheduled for delivery in 1977 and industry sources now estimate the cost by that time could total more than £50m.

Under the original plans the ship would be owned by an Ocean subsidiary, Odyssey Trading, while a sister ship being built by the same company and scheduled for delivery in 1976 was ordered by the Dutch company, Nederlandse Scheepvaart Unie, for subsidiary, Zodiak Shipping NV.

Both ships, like a number of big carriers, were ordered on a speculative basis with no firm commitment to any particular gas-export route. Marketing of the two ships was to be undertaken by a jointly-owned company, Gastraneco.

Earlier this month Mr. J. Lindsay Alexander, chairman of the Ocean group, referred to the contract in his annual review. "Our hopes for a substantial entry into the worldwide carriage of gas have been somewhat reduced by the increase in national control of what we had hoped would become an international free market," he said.

Building the Odyssey Trading vessel has not yet started, although plans are almost completed. Industry sources indicated that Ocean may seek to find a buyer for the ship.

Mr. Alexander is the operator for the Rubysa consortium, which plans to import gas from North Africa into West Germany at the end of this decade, although a more likely buyer is Algeria's national shipping line.

Last month the Algerian company revealed plans to invest about £415m in tonnage to carry increasing gas exports. It was made clear at the time that the company was looking for deliveries in late 1976 or early 1977 to dovetail with completion of additional gas liquefaction facilities planned for Arzew and Skikda.

Crucial negotiations this week to stave off property failures

By Our Financial Staff

The cash-starved Lyon Group and the Stern group of property companies face a critical round of negotiations this week in an effort to stave off collapse. Following the failure of Lyon Group to raise £8.5m from its principal bankers last week, Mr. Ronald Lyon, the chairman, will be meeting them again this week to urge the setting up of a new company to take over the existing development programme.

His proposals already appear to have won powerful support in principle from some bankers. Mr. Roland Franklin, managing director of Keyser Ullmann, estimated to be the fifth biggest bank lender to Lyon, said yesterday that it was in everybody's interest that buildings in the course of construction should be completed, and that the setting up of a new company would be a logical move leading to an orderly liquidation.

At the same time, Mr. Franklin denied reports that Keyser had lent a further £2.2m to Lyon. He said the loan was "not remotely on that scale."

A group of bankers will also be meeting to assess the scale of property sales by the Stern group which is already called in by Kenneth Cork, a specialist in company liquidations, to chair the committee of bankers.

The extent of the group's problems remain unclear, but a meeting of shareholders in Wilshire Securities, the parent company of the group, is shortly to consider whether liquidation is necessary.

The company is thought to be 40 per cent controlled by Mr. William Stern, Mr. Stern and the Sterns Charitable Trust.

Stern is one of the biggest owners of residential property in Britain, particularly in the London area. Mr. Stern was a powerful factor in the creation of the huge residential property portfolio of the Freshwater group, headed by his father-in-law, Sir Charles Freshwater, until he split away at the end of 1971.

Since then his interests have expanded into merchant banking, life assurance and property bonds.

Because the developers' boom in Britain was virtually over Mr. Lyon's group, deputy leader of the Greater London Council, said, some pension funds were in serious difficulty.

He added, "If I were waiting for an ICI pension now, I would be a very worried man." Pension funds have been very big buyers of property and the ICI pension fund has guaranteed a £13.7m loan to the Lyon Group.

Mr. Harrington warned major property companies operating in London not to come to the GLC with their begging bowls. "In the last week, we have seen two leading property companies, one specializing in industrial and commercial development, the other in middle class accommodation in London, reveal their fallibility."

"The developers' boom in London is virtually over. Now comes the people's turn," Mr. Ronald Lyon said in Saturday's Business News. It was stated that Mr. Ronald Lyon "has personal liabilities to the company in excess of £10 million."

There is no doubt that the position is precarious. The true position is that Mr. Lyon has given personal guarantees for obligations entered into by companies in his group for sums in excess of £10m.

There are no sums owed by Mr. Lyon personally to Ronald Lyon (Holdings) Ltd or any of its subsidiaries. The Times is glad to make this position clear and apologizes to Mr. Lyon for any embarrassment he may have suffered as a result.

Strong rally in April for National Savings

By Tim Congdon

April was a better month for the National Savings movement, according to figures released yesterday by the National Savings Committee. Although repayments exceeded receipts by £73.9m, accrued interest amounting to £30m was sufficient to cause the amount remaining invested to rise by £5.1m.

This compares with a fall in the amount remaining invested of £14.3m in March. Some improvement might have been expected with the ending of the three-day week and this seems to have materialized. The three-day week which reduced earnings, was responsible for a drop in saving as consumers cut back their spending only slightly.

But in April last year receipts exceeded repayments by £4m, to cause, after the addition of accrued interest, a £42.9m increase in the amount remaining invested.

The latest figures confirm the earlier impression of a serious shortfall from last year's National Savings performance. The total shortfall in the first four months of 1974 on the corresponding months of 1973 is more than £250m.

In these circumstances, Sir Robert Bellinger, chairman of the National Savings Committee, has sent a statement of intent agreed at the movement's recent annual assembly to every MP.

It expresses "a deep concern" at the potential impact on fixed interest savings of the continued high rates of inflation. It defends the work of the voluntary movement and urges the continuation of the National Savings stamp.

The statement stresses the relevance of the principle of saving in modern society, rejecting opinions expressed in some quarters that the expansion of the "Welfare State" had made personal saving unnecessary. Increased personal effort, it claims, only heightens the need for improved handling of personal finance of which saving is described as an integral part.

It also draws attention to the significance of the voluntary savings movement, which it sees as one of a number of inter-dependent partnerships, linked formally with the Department for National Savings and the Trustee Savings Banks but also, informally, with the wider community.

In illustration of the service provided by the movement, the statement points out that about 38,000 voluntary group secretaries provide facilities through which 2.5 million workers save almost £250m a year.

Wall St fears more banking crises in wake of Franklin

**From Frank Vogl
New York, May 19.**

The disquiet experienced on Wall Street is being reflected by people who have not been so worried and nervous for years about the big banks and the markets, a partner at one of the leading investment banks said here.

Rumours are circulating that a number of top banks are in desperate trouble, and they are being taken seriously in many influential quarters as a result of the serious difficulties at the Franklin National Bank—the 20th largest bank in the United States.

Bankers here and at Federal agencies in Washington stated that the government is determined to prevent Franklin failing and that the Federal Reserve system has already started pumping money into the banking system to relieve serious pressures that has built up.

It has been noted that detailed discussions were held by top government officials from the Treasury, the office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Franklin's problems prior to these difficulties becoming public knowledge.

Some of these agencies argued strongly against Franklin having its shares and bonds suspended on the New York Stock Exchange and urged to prevent the bank from losing its confidence in the country's financial institutions.

Paul has not developed, but Franklin's decisions on its shares and its dividend have started a

flood of rumours, with numerous leading banks being openly mentioned, giving rise to fears about the prospect of a breakdown of serious proportions in the banking system.

This was sharply reflected in the 16 point-plus decline in the Dow Jones stock market index on Friday and by the scale of Fed market intervention, which has produced some lower money market rates and runs counter to recent Fed comments that tighter monetary policies are being pursued.

The prime lending rate has now soared to a record 11.5 per cent, but the possibility of the Fed easing its policies to make sure that more big banks do not run into difficulties, could produce somewhat easier short-term rates soon, bankers believed.

The Fed is widely considered to have lent Franklin up to \$700m (about £291.5m) in the last week. While no one in Wall Street believes the bank will fail the view is that Franklin will manage to survive only if propped up by the Fed with cash for some time, or if the Fed directs it to merge with a stronger bank.

The pessimism evident here clashes with the publicly displayed optimism in Washington. Government leaders are confidently predicting that continued monetary discipline will lead to a healthier economic climate as inflation declines and real growth develops.

Most bankers are firmly predicting that the double digit inflation is likely to continue for the rest of the year and real GNP for the year as a whole may be negative. The government continues to expect inflation to get down to slightly above 6 per cent and expects real GNP for 1974 as a whole to be up by 1 or 2 percentage points.

Whitehall review of North Sea reserves

By Industrial Staff

Substantial increases in the size of North Sea oil and gas reserves will be disclosed by the Government tomorrow. Latest estimates of reserves and production will be contained in the "brown book" which brings official forecasts up to date. The report, which will be produced by Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Energy, was referred to earlier this month by Lord Balogh, Minister for Energy, who indicated that it would reveal a "substantial, indeed surprising" advance. He experienced doubts that there would be a further important oil discovery in the first estimates were ahead.

Previous official estimates suggested that between 70m and 100 million tons of oil would be coming ashore by 1980. Lord Balogh, speaking recently in the Lords, said that Britain would be self-sufficient in energy from the late 1970s and that the clearly implied that production would be considerably in excess of the 100 million tons by 1980.

Other estimates made recently have suggested that by 1980 the 15 fields which have so far been proven in the North Sea could be producing between 150 million to 160 million tons of oil annually.

The "brown book" forecasts will be an important influence in shaping government policy towards greater participation in the oil and gas exploration and development programmes in the North Sea. It will also be the forerunner of two further important statements on energy policy.

BP Chemicals to spend £4.5m on ethylene plant at Grangemouth complex

BP Chemicals International is expanding capacity for ethylene and polyethylene in a £4.5m development programme at its Grangemouth complex in Scotland.

The 250,000 tonnes annual capacity ethylene plant will be boosted by an additional 40,000 tonnes with completion due early in 1976. This extra capacity is needed to provide feedstock for the high-density polyethylene plant where capacity is being increased to 120,000 tonnes annually.

Work on the polyethylene expansion is scheduled to be completed by the end of next year. Both contracts have been awarded to George Wimpey.

Reddish expansion: Further modernization and expansion of its plant at Cheshire, where the construction of 35 kilometres of pipe and seven kilometres of watermain.

The new town's sewer system will need 42 kilometres of pipes, 700 manholes and a 700 mm diameter sea outfall. Water distribution will involve the construction of 35 kilometres of pipe and seven kilometres of watermain.

Stamp duty rise hits fixed interest securities market

By Christopher Wilkins

Concern is mounting in the City over the future of the market for corporate fixed interest securities as a result of the raising of the stamp duty from 1 to 2 per cent in the Budget.

Signs have already been detected that jobbers in the stock market have cut down on the size of the "book" they are prepared to hold in company loan stocks because of the cost of the extra duty.

It is being argued that the extra cost of dealing in loan stocks will severely restrict the secondary market, coming down on the ease with which stock can be bought and sold and hence reducing investor interest in holding them.

This in turn is expected to reduce the willingness of companies to resume issuing loan stock when interest rates fall from their present high levels.

The issue of corporate fixed interest securities increased sharply when the rate of stamp duty was lowered from 2 to 1 per cent in 1963 and since then the introduction of Corporation Tax has further encouraged issues.

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Slater lost £2.2m on American venture

By Terry Byland

The disclosure that Slater, Walker Securities has sold its stake in Slater, Walker of America signals the failure, at a cost of about £2.2m, of last year's venture by SWS into the United States.

SWS and a group of investment clients have sold 705,480 common shares in SWAL to Mr. Sol Kitzay, a private investor, for \$11 a share. Just a year ago SWS held \$21 a share for its stake. The United Kingdom group will continue to hold a \$10m loan note of SWAL which runs until 1988 at only 6 per cent annually, and whose conversion features are to be eliminated by negotiation.

A spokesman for SWS, referring yesterday to the legal and other problems involved in acquisition moves in the United States, said the group had examined "a great many" possible takeovers there, and had opened negotiations with several companies. But only one such approach—to Horizon Corporation—reached the stage of press and public attention, and this move finally collapsed.

Exxon tells Japanese of supply doubts

Tokyo, May 19.—Sources in the oil industry here said Exxon International has informed Japanese oil refiners that it might be unable to maintain crude oil supplies to them after current contracts have expired.

Exxon explained that it could not guarantee a stable supply to the Japanese refiners because of moves in Iraq, Qatari, Libya and other oil producing countries to take over foreign oil interests.

More US oil taxes unlikely

**Our United States
Times Correspondent
New York, May 19**

Oil company executives in United States strongly believe Congress will not increase taxes on oil. The industry is severely on guard against any move to increase taxes on oil or limit the activities of oil companies.

Phasing out of oil depletion allowances is expected, as is the form of windfall profits tax the industry's leaders anticipate Congress might enact. But the industry's view is largely based on relief that as the energy

Anglo-Soviet trade talks open

**From Ed Stevens
Moscow, May 19**

Further opportunities for strengthening economic, scientific and industrial cooperation between Britain and Russia are expected to result from three days of talks which open in London today, involving top-level trade teams from both countries.

The 20-man Soviet team of economic experts which arrived in London yesterday has been billeted in Moscow as the most highly powered Soviet group of its kind to visit Britain.

Led by Mr. Vladimir Kirilin, deputy premier, who is also chairman of the State Committee on Science and Technology, the group includes a number of deputy ministers from departments directly concerned in the areas of greater interest to the Soviets, including timber, agriculture and petrochemicals.

Officially, the group is in Britain to attend the third session of the Anglo-Soviet Joint Commission, to be presided over by Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, and attended by other ministers and top men from the Confederation of British Industry.

The group hopes to cement the 10-year agreement on economic, scientific and industrial cooperation signed in London two weeks ago.

An ambitious scenario has already been drafted covering the exploitation of Russian forests, mainly in the northern regions of the Ural and Pechora rivers.

Another big operation in which British participation is sought is prospecting for oil and gas in the offshore continental shelf in the Arctic ocean. Other plans include land improvement and reclamation in the non-black soil area of Byelorussia and central Russia.

The Russians are reportedly interested in developing wide-bodied planes, and would like to acquire manufacturing licences for engines from Rolls-Royce, and in other ways update their lagging aircraft industry.

In the petrochemical field, the prospects are for the building of a large polyethylene plant, with British investment, repaid in finished products. There has also been interest expressed in building a radial tyre plant.

There is revived interest in the development and exploitation of the remote Odanov copper-containing project which involves heavy capital investment, partly because of difficult access. But the Russians are anxious to include this in the next five-year plan, dating from 1976.

Given the composition of the present team, there is hope on both sides that things will move forward towards the earlier and more productive relationship between Britain and the Soviet Union to which Mr. James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, has referred.

The Russians have taken his remarks as an assurance that they will receive a warm reception they will go beyond the old formula "We've had a good meeting and must now look around for fields we can work in and appoint committees". All parties concerned are

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Property: constraints on the rescue operation

outside the property and probably a great deal more. It must be becoming increasingly clear that the rescue operation is going on in the world's eyes. Not only is the rescue operation going on, but the rescue operation is also going on in the world's eyes. Not only is the rescue operation going on, but the rescue operation is also going on in the world's eyes.



Mr Jeffrey Sterling, who will become vice chairman of Town & City Properties if the T & C offer for Sterling Guarantee Trust succeeds.

better than they were but not good enough yet for the investor to pump his all into gifts.

Stamp duty

More damage to corporate loans

The Stock Exchange could not have been expected to take kindly to the proposal in the Finance Bill to raise the stamp duty on corporate fixed interest securities from 1 to 2 per cent and it has duly gone through the motions of registering its protest. Since the increase looks so modest and since the rate stood at 2 per cent until 1963, however, the protests have not so far commanded much sympathy.

But now that the market has had to live with the new rate for just over two weeks, the potential scale of the damage is becoming apparent. Already jobbers have reacted sharply and brokers are breathing gloom for both the primary and secondary markets in long-term corporate debt.

Their chief objection is that the duty is discriminatory. It does not apply to gilts or to other fixed interest securities like local authority yearling bonds and, of course, it imposes a questionable penalty on long-term debt issues relative to short-term bank borrowings.

In the secondary market, the practical effect of the increased duty is that the cost of the spread between a buyer and a seller of a loan stock taking in the jobber's commission and the jobber's turn rises from around 25p per £100 to around 45p. Measured against a mere 5p on long gilts, there is a clear disincentive to trading.

The argument goes that jobbers, concerned about being able to obtain stock in a more restricted market, are now reluctant to sell short. At the same time they are hesitating to go long because they become liable to the stamp duty if they hold stock on their books for more than two months. In short, jobbers have been eliminating positions entirely and the market shows signs of drying up.

How far the market has overreacted remains unclear. But if it became apparent on a longer-term view that corporate loan stocks really were no longer so freely negotiable, a severe blow would indeed have been struck at the market. Investor interest would inevitably deteriorate and apart from the obvious inference for prices, issues of loan stock would be proportionately less attractive to companies.

Further, if an acceptable margin over gilts is to be maintained at the issuing stage, the increased duty would effectively mean an increase in the cost of funds to the issuer, raising yet another deterrent.

Perhaps the gloom is being overdone, but to put the whole story into perspective it is worth pointing out that during the 1960s, fixed interest issues generally accounted for well over half of all new money raised through the stock market. At one stage they accounted for as much as 90 per cent, although since 1970 the percentage has fallen sharply as interest rates have risen.

Burton Group Cuts back spending

While the Burton Group interim figures were expected to be bad, the actual outcome, which showed pre-tax profits down from £4.28m to £1.22m, after treating the special items arising from property sales, in the more conventional below-the-line fashion, still resulted in the "A" shares falling 4p to 57p on Friday.

The effects of the three-day week have proved extremely damaging. Output fell 40 per cent in the manufacturing businesses and that led to anything up to three months' delay in the made-to-measure business deliveries to the retail outlets. For the first 16 weeks of the period, turnover was some 151 per cent ahead, implying maintained volume sales; in the following 10 weeks the growth slowed and slowed to only 3 per cent.

Sales have recovered in the first six weeks of the current half year to 164 per cent, but profits will still fall below those of last year. The shortfall is impossible to estimate in the present restrictive climate. But after 1972-73's pre-tax total of £8.28m, a figure not much more than half this amount is in prospect, implying a p/e ratio of around 11. The backdrop to the short to medium term is the yield of nearly 10 per cent.

Final: 1973/74 (1972/73) Capitalization £25m Sales £63.6m (£57.1m) Pre-tax profits £1.74m (£4.28m) Dividend gross 2.20p (2.1p)

UDS

An increased interest burden

A 7 per cent fall in second half profits at UDS Group may not seem too surprising, given the impact of the new restrictions on trading and advertising revenues. But this is not the whole story behind the disappointing figures.

Operating profits in fact increased by 13.3 per cent over the whole of last year, against an 18.9 per cent sales rise, though the impact of higher interest and depreciation charges reduced the profit gain to under 4 per cent at the pre-tax level.

Interest charges leapt from £2.15m to £4.56m net during the year reflecting both higher rates and also borrowing to finance acquisitions and capital spending.

UDS is suggesting relative stability from its spread throughout the retail sector, though the two biggest profit centres—multiple shop chains and department stores—look more vulnerable to the current spending climate than does mail order, which is the third largest contributor (leaving out property), and way behind multiples. As a 70p share, the historic p/e ratio is 31, the shares will need the support of the 9.3 per cent yield.

Final: 1973/74 (1972/73) Capitalization £107m Sales £234m (£197m) Pre-tax profits £25.5m (£24.6m) Earnings per share 8.64p (11.36p) Dividend gross 5.56p (6.25p)

The new French President will have to give top priority to sorting out the country's economic problems when he takes over at the Elysée today.

Externally, the country is faced by a falling franc despite the fact that reserves are high, that there is little foreign indebtedness and that exports are doing well. The fall of the franc became more severe during the campaign for the first ballot of the presidential election, with the rate dropping to two francs to the Deutschmark, a sad comparison with the rate in 1958 when the Fifth Republic was established, one franc to the mark. Since the French currency began to float on January 19, 1974, it has continued to lose ground, depreciating by about 10 per cent in three and a half months.

The oil crisis and domestic inflation only partly explain this phenomenon. Another reason lies in the speculative expectation of a revaluation of the franc in addition to the presidency of M. Georges Pompidou, the Government set itself the main objective of industrializing the country, if necessary at the expense of the currency.

This recalls the policy immediately after the war when, in the framework of the Monnet plan, modernization and industrial investment were given priority over monetary prestige and financial orthodoxy.

At present, however, the foundations of the franc are more solid than they were between 1945 and 1950. The Government has cleared itself of all debts with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the European Development Fund of the EEC. It is no longer burdened by the American and Canadian loans of the post-war era. On the

debit side, there is practically nothing other than the usual bank-to-bank credits. In addition, French monetary reserves amount, all told, to Frs 37,300m, of which more than half are in gold, its value being accounted for provisionally on the basis of \$42 an ounce.

Finally, France last year became, partly through the frequently criticised sale of arms, the third exporting country in the world after the United States and West Germany. She is slightly ahead of Japan. The average value of exports is Frs 15,000m a month, of which more than half takes the form of finished products, new development for France—and 19 per cent in farm produce. But the increase in oil prices will, for the first time in years, produce a balance of trade deficit, estimated at Frs 18,500m.

It is, however, by the likelihood of success in solving the

country's domestic problems such as price rises and faltering growth that the new leader will be judged. Here the clouds are accumulating. Hitherto, the economy has, for the most part, overcome the energy crisis. In March, unemployment, depending on the indicators chosen, has either levelled off or actually decreased.

Job offers have risen: 11 per cent of French industrial firms were forced to hold back production because of lack of manpower. However, this demand is for skilled labour and one cannot accept the official version that full employment has almost been achieved.

In fact, the number of people actually looking for jobs is of the order of 450,000, about 2.5 per cent of the active population. One is assured that out of this number, 50,000 only want part-time jobs and that at least one quarter have left their exist-

ing jobs with the certainty of finding others. But this version must be accepted only with reservations.

Indeed, the car industry, the peacemaker of industry and exports in France, is showing signs of a slowdown. In March, sales fell by 8.1 per cent on the domestic market, and by 12.1 per cent abroad, a total of 20 per cent. Compared to March, 1973, the output of Citroën fell from 63,175 to 59,172; that of Chrysler from 56,028 to 42,312; that of Peugeot from 65,750 to 53,959. Only Renault's has risen from 124,004 to 127,525, owing to the success of small engine cars.

These difficulties are likely to increase with the Italian import restrictions, and by reason of the price increases which during the first quarter have reached the record figure of 4.2 per cent.

René Dabernat

Does advertising need greater control?

Patricia Tisdall on the industry's measures to counter consumer criticism

Strenuous efforts have been made by the advertising industry this month to counter the criticisms of consumer protection organizations. Measures include an updating of the Code of Advertising Practice, the industry's voluntarily imposed blueprint for advertisement content.

The code introduces new rules dealing with financial advertising, package tours, property and alcohol. It also tightens up the existing restrictions in such difficult areas as mail order and the advertising of hair and scalp products.

Nevertheless, considerable doubt remains whether the controls are sufficient to meet the requirements of the new consumer protection authorities.

Both Mrs Shirley Williams, the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and Mr John Methven, the Director General of Fair Trading, say they are still not convinced about the effectiveness of advertising's self-regulatory system.

Discussions are in progress to see if it can be improved in so far as it relates to newspaper and magazine advertisements. The more comprehensive and pre-vetting procedures used for television commercials are not included in the criticisms.

Some minor concessions have already been agreed in principle by the industry. It has, for instance, in response to a request by Mrs Williams, said it has no objections to the inclusion of independent members on the committee which administers the code of practice.

Also, methods are being examined to make the control mechanism better known and more accessible to the general public.

The industry is taking unprecedented steps to answer criticisms by Mr Methven, Mrs Williams and others who have become increasingly uneasy about the present state of affairs. For over-optimistic advertisements are not as authoritative as industry spokesmen have frequently proclaimed, confined to small circulation "underground" publications.

The issue of Weekend (circulation one million-plus) dated May 14 contains several advertisements for preparations specifically covered by the advertising code. One, under the headline "New Heights" for instance, promises "a system for attaining 'full height'".

According to the industry's code, advertisements for products purporting to increase the height, apart from "elevator" shoes and the like, are not acceptable.

Furthermore, the code says "any course of physical development, one consequence of which may be to increase the apparent height through improvement of posture, may not be advertised in such a way as to place predominant emphasis upon increasing the height".

New Reveille (established 1940, circulation 800,000-plus) dated May 3 contains an advertisement for a "doctor-tested method which has already brought relief to millions" with the headline "You don't have to put up with rheumatic pain".

Readers are urged to place this product, which is "not a pill or an ointment", at the point of pain and feel how it helps pain and stiffness literally to flow away.

The advertising code says that advertisements may not refer to any medicine, product, appliance or device in terms "calculated to lead to its use for the treatment of any form of arthritis or chronic or persistent rheumatism".

Even the sophisticated Cosmopolitan magazine, which has a circulation of 300,000-plus at the other end of the socio-economic scale, is no exception.

Its May edition carries an advertisement under the headline "Baseline measurements increased" offering initialised testimonials, which include, "Your Fulfillment Cream has done wonders for my bust-line and my morale". This is typical of several advertisements in other publications which make claims like "Baseline improvement" and "Bust history".

On the subject of bust development, the code says that advertisements for devices purporting to enlarge the breasts are not acceptable. It also says that exercises and courses which may have an incidental effect on the bustline "may not be advertised in such a way as to place predominant emphasis on any effect of improving, increasing or enlarging the bustline".

Without addressing the wider theories of consumer protection, the industry is thus establishing a fairly casual reading, demonstrate that the spirit if not the letter of the industry's code is not being observed in a disturbing number of cases.

A fundamental weakness in the existing system is that corrective action need not be taken until the advertisement has appeared and a complaint made and investigated. Meanwhile a quick killing can be made by an unscrupulous advertiser.

A method of overcoming this weakness is the establishment of a pre-vetting procedure for press advertisements similar to that in use for television commercials.

This is a task of immense and costly scale since there are an estimated 25 million press

advertisements compared with only 20,000 for television commercials in a year. However, the feasibility of a modified form of examination prior to publication is now being studied by the responsible committee.

Another vulnerable area lies in the sanctions themselves. There is a heavy reliance on the media publishers to enforce these, mainly by refusing to publish offending advertisements.

Advertising agencies, of course, are barred from "recognition", which would mean they were no longer entitled to the commission from media publishers that makes up the bulk of their revenue. But very little dubious advertising survives from agencies.

A more recent corrective procedure and potentially the most powerful (the introduction of which, significantly, coincided with the establishment of the Office of Fair Trading last summer) has been the "naming of names".

The Advertising Standards Authority now publishes details of all cases which come before it, although the list has a fairly restricted circulation and as yet no promotion.

However, cases are only registered with the ASA if a complaint has been made. During the four months ended in January only 120 such complaints had been received. Of these, 80 per cent concerned mail order advertisements mainly about non-delivery of goods or refunds.

Even if they are aware that corrective procedure exists, people who have been persuaded to purchase unsatisfactory preparations for rheumatism, skin diseases and the like are often reluctant to lodge formal complaints about the advertising.

The more responsible elements in the industry are aware of the difficulties and are proposing to set up a working party to study the groups likely to be most vulnerable to disreputable advertisements.

The advertising industry's big problem in achieving all these reforms is finance. Very shortly, it seems, the Advertising Association will be looking to its members for substantial increases in subscriptions to fund more efficient controls. For both Mrs Williams and Mr Methven have made it plain that further reforms are needed.

Need for scrutiny of US foreign deals

The use of Government subsidies for the partial financing of later national trade deals by companies is undergoing searching scrutiny in the United States.

This has been one of the central topics in hearings by the Senate's sub-committee on international finance into the activities of the Government-controlled Export-Import Bank.

The most sensitive area of trade operations for Americans is that concerned with Communist countries and the hearings have brought to light a great deal of information, which clearly shows that the subsidies are involved, about which the public has a right to be informed.

Company executives claim that secrecy is vital because of business competition. Nevertheless, there are certainly some transactions, particularly where Government subsidies are involved, about which the public has a right to be informed.

One outcome of the Senate hearings may well be an improvement in the system of control used in governing taxpayer subsidised deals that touch upon politically sensitive questions. Few countries have institutional arrangements whereby full disclosure of what is involved in such deals is available.

One of the committee's sessions recently showed just how important public information and scrutiny of politically sensitive deals is and for the first time details were made known concerning a transaction of very major significance.

The committee discussed at considerable length the implications of a deal that Occidental Petroleum Corporation was negotiating with the Soviet Union in which the Export-Import Bank had given preliminary approval to a \$180m credit to the Russians.

The deal involves the shipment to the Soviet Union by Occidental of the superphosphoric acid produced from 80 million tons of phosphate rock mined in Florida. The shipments are to be spread evenly over 20 years, starting in 1978.

In return the Russians will export potash, ammonia and urea to the United States.

On the surface, the deal seems straightforward and not politically sensitive. Yet, as testimony showed in the hearings, some people are clearly worried about several aspects. These include possible damage to the environment produced by mining so much phosphate rock, the possibility of the Russians making weapons from the superphosphoric acid they get and the drain on American energy re-

sources involved in mining so much phosphate rock.

On all these points the chief of Occidental, Dr Armand Hammer, made perfectly sound and reasonable arguments in defence of the deal, but the questions raised showed clearly that this is just the sort of transaction that demands some form of government scrutiny.

Of equal importance and of greater controversy in the hearings was the question of whether such deals as these should be aided with money from the taxpayer.

Dr Hammer told the committee that the Export-Import Bank will help to finance the deal to the tune of \$180m, that a further \$180m is being put up by a consortium of 10 banks, led by the Bank of America. And that the Russians are putting up \$40m.

Occidental, he said, will have to finance investments of \$340m itself and the Russians will get additional credits of \$400m in Western Europe.

In developing their own plants to handle the phosphate and make fertilizers, the Russians will themselves spend the equivalent of a further \$1,000m.

These figures alone give an indication of just how massive the whole deal really is. Under the terms of the committee's fire from the committee, the Export-Import Bank carried its \$180m loan will carry an interest rate of 6 per cent per year—a rate well below prevailing free market credit rates.

Dr Hammer argued for over an hour that above all a deal like this would strengthen relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Dr Hammer added that it was just for such reasons of détente that the Export-Import Bank should give cheap credits on such sort of deal, and because they strengthened the competitiveness of American business internationally and aided the nation's balance of payments.

He noted that in other major countries deal really is. Under the terms of the committee's fire from the committee, the Export-Import Bank carried its \$180m loan will carry an interest rate of 6 per cent per year—a rate well below prevailing free market credit rates.

The questions raised during the hearings are quite clear and it seems surprising that in some other countries—like the United Kingdom, Japan or West Germany—people do not publicly question actions by their own agencies of the Export-Import Bank type as the Americans are now doing.

Agencies in those countries have given far greater grants to the Russians than has the American Export-Import Bank.

Frank Vogl

n't blame the v tap stock

In 1974 "low", established on All Fool's Day, the FT 100 index fell 9.9 per cent by the terms of the new long stock were announced on May 1, most of the increase occurred early this year. That is the sort of price cut that cries out for a breath, if not a full action, and the new stock should not be blamed too much for that. The one was, after all, over old and there can have been in the market who bought that the market would be willing to lose over future selling prices by falling to a successor stock on their own choosing. Unemployment with alternative media and the in money market rates that the weight of money led for gifts should stop from falling far, though others running such small day-to-day movements main fairly sharp.

The authorities bound to wily when they can, as I contribution of the seems to depend on a of good news from the and balance of payments. The prospects are



Peter Kirk (left) and Rafton Pounder, Strasbourg manoeuvres.

happened technically they amended a motion that the entry into the Community's automatically raising its might be delayed. What reservations wanted, with support from others it said, was to re-examine sole basis of the Community's finance regulation. The claim that this unfairly as a country like Britain, we are a large importer from the outside world, on imported foodstuffs, one of the biggest of revenue for the Nine. Conservatives called, in a new system which tie the amount a country such much more closely to its income.

is the first concrete in members of the Con-



Peter Kirk (left) and Rafton Pounder, Strasbourg manoeuvres.

servative Party who agree in principle with the idea of Community membership might want to seek changes in the details of some of the things agreed as part of the terms of entry. The amendment very carefully does not get embroiled in discussion of whether or not changing the rules to suit Britain requires "renegotiation". But the very fact that some of the most committed Europeans in the country have now clearly come to the conclusion that we are paying too much is bound to strengthen the hand of those in the Government who want to try to get better terms.

The Conservative group at Strasbourg clearly intend to press on with their campaign.

ing £4,500 for her training, an Antwerp girl called Yvonne Cuneia has been taken on by the charter firm of Trans European Airlines as a regular Boeing pilot.

Miss Cuneia is the first Belgian girl to be entrusted with this heavy responsibility. One benefit flowing from setting a precedent has been freedom to choose her own uniform—a snappy navy blue trouser suit.

She has certainly worked hard to achieve her breakthrough. Women are not eligible for training as pilots in the Belgian air force, and if they want to attend the civil aviation school they have to pay for themselves, flying time and all. She worked as a secretary in between to raise the necessary money and was helped by a grant from a foundation for vocational training.

Bitten by planes from the tenderest age, Miss Cuneia first piloted herself in a glider and became the first woman to complete a 30-mile course without landing. She will begin with TEA as a co-pilot until she has taken a further test and completed 100 hours flying under supervision.

Dutch delicacy

One of those peculiar Continental habits which is guaranteed to turn the British tourist green at the gills is the Dutchman's custom of picking up a raw herring by its tail, bending

over backwards and neatly filleting the thing with his teeth. The herring is first bedded with vinegar and the flesh then swallowed lock stock and barrel—and is one of Holland's greatest delicacies. In the best restaurants, one is given a knife and fork and the hot buttered toast and sliced lemon alongside the naked herring. But the real Dutch gourmet would retch at the thought.

This week the first of the new herring was landed at Scheveningen fishing port. The delicacy costs around 80p per primary school-sized fish but the real Dutch herring fancier is willing to pay that price to sample the first of the season. The very first herring are not Dutch at all—they are Irish, caught off Ireland's coast in ever decreasing quantities. For the North Sea herring, supposed to be the last word in this particular speciality, we will have to wait a few more days. The health authorities insist on the freshly caught herring being deep frozen to kill off the herring worm, which can also flourish in humans.

The price of raw herring will drop to around 25p a piece with a few weeks, and then the tourists can really enjoy the spectacle of Dutchmen, dressed or undressed, consuming raw fish alongside every self-respecting canal. Our correspondent in The Hague, having previously regarded this habit for many years with abhorrence, reports that it is indeed delicious—as long as you keep your eyes closed.

Top flight

In bourgeois Belgium, where feminism is slowly on the rise, another male heston has fallen. At the age of 29, and after pay-

Bank of New South Wales opens Representative Office in Frankfurt

Bank of New South Wales, Australia's first bank and the major trading bank in the South West Pacific today opens a special Representative Office in Frankfurt.

Mr. Jeffrey W. Green (Representative) and Mr. Derek J. Phillips (Assistant Representative) may be contacted at their suite at the

Hotel Frankfurt Intercontinental/
Wilhelm Leuschner Str. 43
(Telephone 230561 Telex 4.13639)

prior to official opening of permanent offices. Businessmen interested in trade with Australia, New Zealand, and other areas of the South West Pacific are invited to get in touch with these gentlemen, who will be pleased to give information on commercial and investment opportunities in these rapidly growing areas.

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Redemption Notice

City of Oslo (Norway)

5% Sink Fund External Loan Bonds due June 15, 1975

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Fiscal Agency Agreement dated as of June 21, 1960 under which the above described Bonds were issued, that First National City Bank, Fiscal Agent, has selected by lot for redemption on June 15, 1974, through the operation of the Sinking Fund, \$923,000 principal amount of said Bonds at the Sinking Fund redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to the date fixed for redemption. The serial numbers of the Bonds selected by lot for redemption are as follows:

BOND NUMBERS									
25-75	560	983	1433	1940	2354	2775	3249	3691	4205
76	561	984	1434	1941	2355	2776	3250	3692	4206
77	562	985	1435	1942	2356	2777	3251	3693	4207
78	121	603	1098	1494	1984	2398	3087	3644	4208
79	122	604	1099	1495	1985	2399	3088	3645	4209
80	123	612	987	1469	1998	2408	3097	3654	4210
81	124	613	988	1470	1999	2409	3098	3655	4211
82	125	614	989	1471	2000	2410	3099	3656	4212
83	126	615	990	1472	2001	2411	3100	3657	4213
84	127	616	991	1473	2002	2412	3101	3658	4214
85	128	617	1013	1504	2014	2419	3099	3659	4215
86	129	618	1014	1505	2015	2420	3100	3660	4216
87	130	619	1015	1506	2016	2421	3101	3661	4217
88	131	620	1016	1507	2017	2422	3102	3662	4218
89	132	621	1017	1508	2018	2423	3103	3663	4219
90	133	622	1018	1509	2019	2424	3104	3664	4220
91	134	623	1019	1510	2020	2425	3105	3665	4221
92	135	624	1020	1511	2021	2426	3106	3666	4222
93	136	625	1021	1512	2022	2427	3107	3667	4223
94	137	626	1022	1513	2023	2428	3108	3668	4224
95	138	627	1023	1514	2024	2429	3109	3669	4225
96	139	628	1024	1515	2025	2430	3110	3670	4226
97	140	629	1025	1516	2026	2431	3111	3671	4227
98	141	630	1026	1517	2027	2432	3112	3672	4228
99	142	631	1027	1518	2028	2433	3113	3673	4229
100	143	632	1028	1519	2029	2434	3114	3674	4230
101	144	633	1029	1520	2030	2435	3115	3675	4231
102	145	634	1030	1521	2031	2436	3116	3676	4232
103	146	635	1031	1522	2032	2437	3117	3677	4233
104	147	636	1032	1523	2033	2438	3118	3678	4234
105	148	637	1033	1524	2034	2439	3119	3679	4235
106	149	638	1034	1525	2035	2440	3120	3680	4236
107	150	639	1035	1526	2036	2441	3121	3681	4237
108	151	640	1036	1527	2037	2442	3122	3682	4238
109	152	641	1037	1528	2038	2443	3123	3683	4239
110	153	642	1038	1529	2039	2444	3124	3684	4240
111	154	643	1039	1530	2040	2445	3125	3685	4241
112	155	644	1040	1531	2041	2446	3126	3686	4242
113	156	645	1041	1532	2042	2447	3127	3687	4243
114	157	646	1042	1533	2043	2448	3128	3688	4244
115	158	647	1043	1534	2044	2449	3129	3689	4245
116	159	648	1044	1535	2045	2450	3130	3690	4246
117	160	649	1045	1536	2046	2451	3131	3691	4247
118	161	650	1046	1537	2047	2452	3132	3692	4248
119	162	651	1047	1538	2048	2453	3133	3693	4249
120	163	652	1048	1539	2049	2454	3134	3694	4250
121	164	653	1049	1540	2050	2455	3135	3695	4251
122	165	654	1050	1541	2051	2456	3136	3696	4252
123	166	655	1051	1542	2052	2457	3137	3697	4253
124	167	656	1052	1543	2053	2458	3138	3698	4254
125	168	657	1053	1544	2054	2459	3139	3699	4255
126	169	658	1054	1545	2055	2460	3140	3700	4256
127	170	659	1055	1546	2056	2461	3141	3701	4257
128	171	660	1056	1547	2057	2462	3142	3702	4258
129	172	661	1057	1548	2058	2463	3143	3703	4259
130	173	662	1058	1549	2059	2464	3144	3704	4260
131	174	663	1059	1550	2060	2465	3145	3705	4261
132	175	664	1060	1551	2061	2466	3146	3706	4262
133	176	665	1061	1552	2062	2467	3147	3707	4263
134	177	666	1062	1553	2063	2468	3148	3708	4264
135	178	667	1063	1554	2064	2469	3149	3709	4265
136	179	668	1064	1555	2065	2470	3150	3710	4266
137	180	669	1065	1556	2066	2471	3151	3711	4267
138	181	670	1066	1557	2067	2472	3152	3712	4268
139	182	671	1067	1558	2068	2473	3153	3713	4269
140	183	672	1068	1559	2069	2474	3154	3714	4270
141	184	673	1069	1560	2070	2475	3155	3715	4271
142	185	674	1070	1561	2071	2476	3156	3716	4272
143	186	675	1071	1562	2072	2477	3157	3717	4273
144	187	676	1072	1563	2073	2478	3158	3718	4274
145	188	677	1073	1564	2074	2479	3159	3719	4275
146	189	678	1074	1565	2075	2480	3160	3720	4276
147	190	679	1075	1566	2076	2481	3161	3721	4277
148	191	680	1076	1567	2077	2482	3162	3722	4278
149	192	681	1077	1568	2078	2483	3163	3723	4279
150	193	682	1078	1569	2079	2484	3164	3724	4280
151	194	683	1079	1570	2080	2485	3165	3725	4281
152	195	684	1080	1571	2081	2486	3166	3726	4282
153	196	685	1081	1572	2082	2487	3167	3727	4283
154	197	686	1082	1573	2083	2488	3168	3728	4284
155	198	687	1083	1574	2084	2489	3169	3729	4285
156	199	688	1084	1575	2085	2490	3170	3730	4286
157	200	689	1085	1576	2086	2491	3171	3731	4287
158	201	690	1086	1577	2087	2492	3172	3732	4288
159	202	691	1087	1578	2088	2493	3173	3733	4289
160	203	692	1088	1579	2089	2494	3174	3734	4290
161	204	693	1089	1580	2090	2495	3175	3735	4291
162	205	694	1090	1581	2091	2496	3176	3736	4292
163	206	695	1091	1582	2092	2497	3177	3737	4293
164	207	696	1092	1583	2093	2498	3178	3738	4294
165	208	697	1093	1584	2094	2499	3179	3739	4295
166	209	698	1094	1585	2095	2500	3180	3740	4296
167	210	699	1095	1586	2096	2501	3181	3741	4297
168	211	700	1096	1587	2097	2502	3182	3742	4298
169	212	701	1097	1588	2098	2503	3183	3743	4299
170	213	702	1098	1589	2099	2504	3184	3744	4300
171	214	703	1099	1590	2100	2505	3185	3745	4301
172	215	704	1100	1591	2101	2506	3186	3746	4302
173	216	705	1101	1592	2102	2507	3187	3747	4303
174	217	706	1102	1593	2103	2508	3188	3748	4304
175	218	707	1103	1594	2104	2509	3189	3749	4305
176	219	708	1104	1595	2105	2510	3190	3750	4306
177	220	709	1105	1596	2106	2511	3191	3751	4307
178	221	710	1106	1597	2107	2512	3192	3752	4308
179	222	711	1107	1598	2108	2513	3193	3753	4309
180	223	712	1108	1599	2109	2514	3194	3754	4310
181	224	713	1109	1600	2110	2515	3195	3755	4311
182	225	714	1110	1601	2111	2516	3196	3756	4312
183	226	715	1111	1602	2112	2517	3197	3757	4313
184	227	716	1112	1603	2113	2518	3198	3758	4314
185	228	717	1113	1604	2114	2519	3199	3759	4315
186	229	718	1114	1605	2115	2520	3200	3760	4316
187	230	719	1115	1606	2116	2521	3201	3761	4317
188	231	720	1116	1607	2117	2522	3202	3762	4318
189	232	721	1117	1608	2118	2523	3203	3763	4319
190	233	722	1118	1609	2119	2524	3204	3764	4320
191	234	723	1119	1610	2120	2525	3205	3765	4321
192	235	724	1120	1611	2121	2526	3206	3766	4322
193	236	725	1121	1612	2122	2527	3207	3767	4323
194	237	726	1122	1613	2123	2528	3208	3768	4324
195	238	727	1123	1614	2124	2529	3209	3769	4325
196	239	728	1124	1615	2125	2530	3210	3770	4326
197	240	729	1125	1616	2126	2531	3211	3771	4327
198	241	730	1126	1617	2127	2532	3212	3772	4328
199	242	731	1127	1618	2128	2533	3213	3773	4329
200	243	732	1128	1619	2129	2534	3214	3774	4330
201	244	733	1129	1620	2130	2535	3215	3775	4331
202	245	734	1130	1621	2131	2536	3216	3776	4332
203	246	735	1131	1622	2132	2537	3217	3777	4333
204	247	736	1132	1623	2133	2538	3218	3778	4334
205	248	737	1133	1624	2134	2539	3219	3779	4335
206	249	738	1134	1625	2135	2540	3220	3780	4336
207	250	739	1135	1626	2136	2541	3221	3781	4337
208	251	740	1136	1627	2137	2542	3222	3782	4338
209	252	741	1137	1628	2138	2543	3223	3783	4339
210	253	742	1138	1629	2139				

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Women's Appointments also on page 25

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ADPOWER

Interested in PEOPLE? We are looking for a self-starter with a good knowledge of office procedures. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

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WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAL

A YOUNG GO-AHEAD Public Property Group require the following staff for their public offices in W.1:

SECRETARY

TO GROUP COMPANY SECRETARY

Salary up to £2,250

AUDIO TYPIST

FOR GROUP SECRETARIAL OFFICE

Salary up to £1,800

SECRETARY

TO GROUP INVESTMENT MANAGER

Salary up to £2,000

BOOKKEEPER

UP TO TRIAL BALANCE

Salary negotiable up to £1,900

PLEASE CONTACT MISS BARRY, 01-499 7702 EXT. 58 (weekdays)

CANADIAN ORGANISATION HOLBORN, W.C.1

requires a SECRETARY for their Advertising/Publicity department, to the Publicity and Press Officer and Creative Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Please write or phone the following:—

A. J. Found,
Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia,
Templar House, 81 High Holborn, WC1V 6LS.
Tel.: 01-405 1105.

SECRETARY FOR PROFESSOR OF MICROBIOLOGY CONCERNED WITH RESEARCH ON DISEASES OF ANIMALS

Good secretarial skills, experience in research and laboratory work. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Salary on scale to maximum of £1,750 p.a. (under review). Post available from July.

Applications to Assistant Secretary (Personnel), The Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU.

SUMMER IN ROME?

Secretaries throughout the world are looking for a summer job in Rome. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Ring Bond St. Bureau 499 1553

SECRETARY FOR ARCHITECTS

Office with excellent and expanding opportunities for a secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

NEW HORIZONS ASSIGNMENT SECRETARIES

We have vacancies in our team of experienced secretaries working for our clients in various fields. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

ADVERTISING AGENCY, BAKER ST.

Needs a wide, active, and efficient secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

P.A./SECRETARY

Efficient in Secretarial duties to work for two senior executives in a busy office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

SECRETARY, LISTEN

To a salary of £2,000 upwards in the City, for a role in a large-scale property development.

Please apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

ADVERTISING AGENCY, W.1

WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAL

Established Worldwide Travel Organisation

P.A./SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN

We are looking for a hard-working, intelligent, and efficient woman to act as a personal secretary to the Chairman. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

ARCHITECTS REQUIRE PRACTICE SECRETARY

To be responsible for accounts, bookkeeping, and general office administration. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

ARCHITECTS REQUIRE TWO YOUNG LADIES

Good secretarial and receptionist skills. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

SECRETARY/EAST LONDON

Capable Secretary required for busy Company Secretary/Operational Director of small expanding Public Company at the Group Head Office in Hackney, W.1.

EMBASSY SECRETARY

English mother tongue to start immediately. Hours 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. No Saturdays. A home office with excellent facilities.

ALANGATE LEGAL SECRETARIES

Conveyancing, Litigation, and Commercial. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Of Market Research Co. in W.2 requires a well-organized, efficient, and experienced Managing Director. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

VOGUE

Requires an experienced and efficient secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

SENIOR PARTNER

Mayfair Estate Agents. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

MARKETING MANAGER'S MATE TO £2,300

Super West End spot in business district. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

TOP SECRETARY TO £2,500

Very senior job for a really experienced and efficient secretary. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

ADVERTISING AGENCY, W.1

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WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAL

require a

SECRETARY for the PERSONNEL OFFICER

The secretarial duties will include general assistance with all aspects of the work handled by the Personnel Officer.

Working conditions are excellent being situated in modern air conditioned offices overlooking the City, close to Liverpool Street and Bank stations.

Applicants should be in their early twenties with a formal secretarial training. Speeds 100/45 wpm—electric typewriter. Previous personnel experience not essential but an outgoing personality together with a genuine liking for people is very necessary.

Starting salary in the region of £1,900 p.a. depending on age and ability. 3 weeks holiday per annum. Hours 9.30 a.m.-5.30 p.m. Non-contributory pension scheme.

Application forms from the Personnel Officer, The Council of the Stock Exchange, The Stock Exchange, London EC2N 1HP or telephone 01-583 2355, ext. 683.

DEDICATED YOUNG SECRETARY SHORTHAND TYPIST

Required urgently for Director of major property development near the Tower of London.

An exciting project and an interesting job carrying a good salary plus LV's.

Ring 709 9100 now and ask Beverley Rouse for further details.

ARCHITECTS REQUIRE TWO YOUNG LADIES

Good secretarial and receptionist skills. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

GET IT ALL TOGETHER!

The great Guinness advertisement. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

BORED BY COMMERCE?

The Red Cross needs people to help in its work. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

LEGAL SECRETARIES TO £2,200

For various and interesting positions both temporary and permanent in the City. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

SHOW BUSINESS PRODUCTION COMPANY

Small but expanding company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

SECRETARY P.A./SHORTHAND TYPIST

If you are a self-starter with a good knowledge of office procedures. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

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WOMEN'S APPOINTMENTS SECRETARIAL

SECRETARY c. £2,000

Reuters Limited, the world-wide general business news agency, has an immediate vacancy for a secretary to work for the Manager of Reuters Economic Services. Applicants should have good shorthand typing speed and be capable of organizing routine office administration efficiently.

This is an interesting and varied job for a reason and well organized young lady.

The starting salary will be around £2,000 per annum according to age and experience and there are the usual benefits associated with a large company.

Please write or telephone Recruitment Executives Limited, 85 Fleet Street, London EC4P 3TE. Telephone: 01-353 6060.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

URGENTLY NEEDED FOR MANAGING DIRECTOR

OF FAST-EXPANDING MERCHANT BANK

Excellent shorthand and typing skills required, must be capable and ready to take responsibility. Must be able to work with plenty of initiative and drive. Informal working atmosphere in luxury Mayfair. Generous holidays and excellent salary for the right person.

Please ring Joy Hill 493 6416

BANK OF LONDON AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

SECRETARY/DRAMA

The Arts Council of Great Britain requires a Secretary for its Drama Department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

HOUSE OF COMMONS LIBRARY

Personal Secretary to a Member of Parliament. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT £2,000

Great opportunity for a self-starter with a good knowledge of office procedures. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and for the recruitment and training of staff.

Apply to: Mr. J. H. Smith, 100 Baker Street, W.1. 01-933 6581.

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

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SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Advertisement for classified advertising, listing various services and contact information.

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DEATHS

Obituary notice for a deceased individual, mentioning family members and funeral arrangements.

Obituary notice for a deceased individual, mentioning family members and funeral arrangements.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

Article titled 'THE HORROR OF SOUTH OCKENDON' discussing mental health issues.

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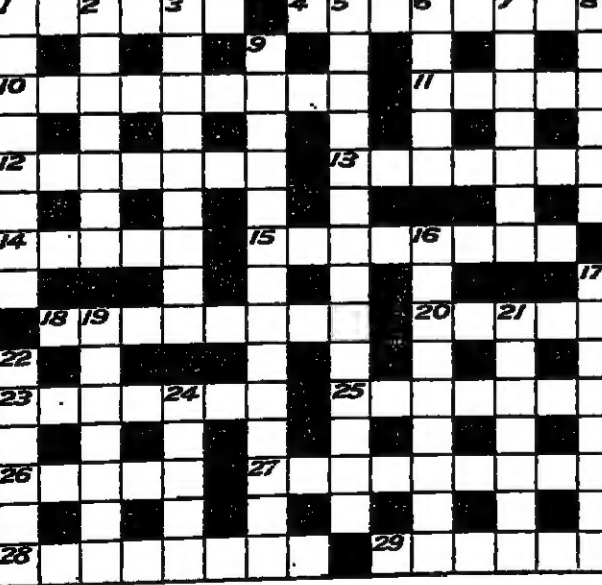
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 13,691



- ACROSS
- 1 Happy family baker, happy to be associated with Bacon (6)
- 4 Alternative title for Millais's 'Order of Release' (4,4)
- 10 Self-banking devices? They've got off the ground (9)
- 11 One of the crowd or 9 (5)
- 12 Munster reorganized to strengthen the front (7)
- 13 Local time for ceremony? (7)
- 14 Very musical, one can hear first-rate (5)
- 15 One old copper retires next as a bird (8)
- 16 Time elapses more than one in beauty's brow (8)
- 17 Inappropriate to look for train yet (5)
- 18 Language with which Bill took in poor Maids (7)
- 19 Text can contribute to the City (7)
- 20 Fences with splitting sides? (5)
- 21 Getting someone ready to get soaked? (8)
- 22 He noted Prevor's Jass (8)
- 23 Coming to church, then? (6)
- DOWN
- 1 What a danger if he let it blow off (5,3)
- 2 Gossips or toddlers sound Jack? (7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Various short notices and announcements, including business listings and community events.

Continuation of various short notices and announcements.

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Various short notices and announcements, including business listings and community events.

Continuation of various short notices and announcements.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

Advertisement for holiday homes and villas, listing various properties and locations.

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Large advertisement for 'Punt e Mes' restaurant, featuring a cartoon illustration of a man and woman, and text describing the restaurant's atmosphere and offerings.